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THE  
PANJAB CHIEFS.

*HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES OF THE  
PRINCIPAL FAMILIES IN THE LAHORE AND  
RAWALPINDI DIVISIONS OF THE PANJAB.*

BY

SIR LEPEL H. GRIFFIN, K.C.S.I.

New Edition

Bringing the Histories down to date,

BY

CHARLES FRANCIS MASSY,

MAJOR, BENGAL STAFF CORPS.

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## PREFACE TO THE ORIGINAL EDITION.

THE histories of the Panjab Chiefs have been written by desire of Sir Robert Montgomery, Lieutenant-Governor of the Panjab.

The first portion of the work includes all the Chiefs and Sardars of the plain country of the Panjab Proper, from the Bias to the Indus. The second portion, which will be shortly published, treats of the outlying districts and dependencies of the province; the Cis-Satlaj States; the Jalandhar Doab; the Rajput Hill States; the Derajat and Peshawar; Bahawalpur and Kashmir, and the Dehli territory.

The intention of the work has been to give a picture of the Panjab aristocracy as it exists at the present day. No mention has accordingly been made of many families, Hindu and Mahomedan, once powerful and wealthy, which fell before the Sikhs. No mention has been made of many old Sikh families, whose jagirs were seized by the raja Ranjit Singh, and whose descendants are now husbandmen. A few notices of tribes and families of less importance have, for special reasons, been given. The general rule, however, has been to give only the histories of those men who have been chiefs at the present time, rank, wealth, and family.

It has not been found possible to give a body of general information, but the authorities for each family are given: and it may therefore be well to mention the sources from which the information has been derived.

In the first place, each family: sometimes meagre and connected, in many cases



Secondly, the whole records of the Panjab Government from annexation to the present year, the letters of the British Agents at Dohli and Ludhiana from 1809 to 1845, and the records of the old Sikh Government, have been largely made use of.

Thirdly, almost all histories, travels and memoirs relating to the Panjab, in English, Persian and Urdu, have been consulted.

Fourthly, the actors in, and eye-witnesses of, the events described have been questioned; a large number of the Chiefs and Sardars, with their bards and family priests, have been examined personally; and from their statements much new and interesting information has been gained.

Among those to whom acknowledgments are due for assistance in the preparation of the work are Pandit Manphul, Extra Assistant Commissioner, attached to the Secretariat, whose learning and great local knowledge have been invaluable; Syed Hadi Hasain Khan, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Gujrat; and Maulvi Rajab Ali Khan, Khan Bahadar, of Ludhiana.

LEPEL H. GRIFFIN.



## PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION.

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THE PANJAB CHIEFS, published more than twenty-five years ago, is out of print. Sir Lepel Griffin, then an Assistant Commissioner, wrote the biographies of the leading families of the existing Lahore and Rawalpindi Divisions. In the present edition his text has not been interfered with; and my share of the work has been confined to the mention of changes which have since affected the families. Some of the so-called Chiefs, even in this short space, have sunk into insignificance, or have been thrust out of the front rank by the better educated and more pushing men of the present day. Others are rapidly passing out of importance. But as a literary and historical record, Sir Lepel Griffin's work will keep fresh to the end of time; and as a book of reference, it will be prized as long as this country is administered by British officials.

Sir Lepel Griffin was unable to carry out his intention of completing the histories. His work on the Rajas of the Panjab was a step in this direction; but he left untouched the whole of the North-West Frontier, most of the Himalayan tracts, and much of the Southern and Eastern Panjab. The duty of filling up these gaps has devolved upon me. The work is finished and will very shortly be published as a separate book.\*

In connection with the present publication, I acknowledge the valuable assistance given me by W. Gardiner, J. Wilson, E. Nicholl, and Baron, Captain Dunlop Smith, as well as Rai Lachhoo.

---

\* *Chiefs and Families of Note in the Panjab.*



Lala Ram Nath. The editing of this new edition was in the first instance entrusted to Colonel C. H. T. Marshall, who, before his transfer to Hyderabad, had collected some materials which I have made use of.

CHARLES FRANCIS MASSY.

KAFURTHALA :

1st September 1890.

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# DARBARIS OF THE LAHORE DISTRICT.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.		Name, family and place of residence.	Father's name.	Age.	REMARKS.
In the Division.	In the Province.				
1	2	V.* Raja Harbans Singh of Shekhpura and Lahore.	Raja Tej Singh (adoptive).	40	Related to No. 11.
8	33	V.† Nawab Sir Nawazish Ali Khan, Kazaibash, K.C.I.E., of Lahore.	Nawab Ali Raza Khan.	65	Related to No. 40.
10	38	V. Diwan Ram Nath, Kashmiri Pandit, of Lahore, District Judge.	Diwan Amar Nath.	47	Related to Nos. 12 and 22.
11	39	V. Sardar Narindar Singh, of Lahore.	Raja Tej Singh.	29	Related to No. 1.
12	40	V. Kanwar Narinjan Nath, of Lahore.	Raja Dina Nath.	46	Related to No. 10.
13	58	V. Sheikh Gbulam Mahub Subhani, of Lahore.	Nawab Imam-udin Khan.	45	Related to No. 58.
14	60	V. Bhai Nand Gopal, of Lahore.	Bhai Govind Ram.	50	Related to Nos. 15 and 16.
15	61	V. Bhai Mian Singh, of Lahore.	Bhai Nadhan Singh.	47	Related to No. 14.
16	62	V. Bhai Gurdia Singh, of Lahore.	Bhai Charanjit Singh.	22	Iditto.
22	77	V. Diwan Narindar Nath, of Lahore.	Diwan Baij Nath.	55	Related to No. 10.
23	81	V. Sardar Ranjodh Singh Nakai, of Bahawal.	Sardar Chatar Singh.	50	
29	155	V. Sardar Sarup Singh Malwai, of Lahore.	Sardar Karpal Singh.	40	
32	196	V. Sher Singh Thepura, of Kila Jiwan Singh, Lahore.	Sardar Fateh Singh.	—	
33	201	V. Fakir Zaburudin, of Lahore.	Fakir Nurudin.	65	Related to Nos. 35, 37, 45, 49 and 50.
34	202	V. Lala Bhagwan Das Dhariwala, of Lahore.	Diwan Ratan Chand.	52	

\* The prefixed letters V and P refer to the status of Viceregal or Provincial.

† Died towards the end of 1890.



## LIST OF DARBARIS

ORDER OF PREFERENCE.		Name, family and place of residence.	Father's name.	Age.	REMARKS.
In the Division.	In the Province.				
35	203	V. Fakir Barhaoudin, of Lahore.	Fakir Shams-uddin.	48	Related to No. 33.
37	247	V. Fakir Jamaludin, of Lahore.	Fakir Azizudin.	56	Ditto.
38	248	V. Pandit Bansil Lal, of Lahore.	Pandit Bikkhi Kesh.	26	Related to No. 41.
39	249	V. Lala Ram Das, of Lahore and Gujranwala.	Rai Mui Singh.	18	Also shown in the Gujranwala District List.
40	251	V. Raza Ali Khan, of Lahore.	Mahomed Raza Khan.	42	Related to No. 8.
41	252	V. Pandit Jawalsdat Parshad, of Lahore.	Pandit Deodat Parshad.	26	Related to No. 38.
42	253	V. Misar Ram Das, of Lahore.	Misar Beli Ram.	70	Related to No. 47.
44	258	V. Ahmad Yar Khan Multani Pathan, of Lahore.	Nawab Zulfiqar Khan.	54	Related to No. 26.
47	312	V. Misar Sundar Das, of Lahore.	Misar Ram Kishan.	55	Related to No. 42.
48	371	V. Khan Bahadar Fakir Kamarudin, of Lahore.	Fakir Nurudin.	64	Related to No. 33.
49	372	V. Fakir Hafizudin, of Lahore.	Ditto	55	Ditto.
50	373	V. Fakir Mirajudin, of Lahore.	Manvi Fakir Tajudin.	49	Ditto.
51	374	V. Kanwar Bakhshish Singh, of Lahore.	Son (reputed) of the late Maharaja Sher Singh, of Lahore.	62	Related to Nos. 52, 53 and 57.
52	375	V. Kanwar Thakur Singh, of Lahore.	Adopted son of Rani Partab Kaur, widow of the above.	45	Related to No. 51.
53	376	V. Kanwar Narain Singh, of Lahore.	Adopted son of Rani Parem Kaur, widow of the above.	46	Ditto.
57	387	V. Kanwar Bhup Singh of Lahore.	Adopted son of Rani Bhuri.	41	Ditto.
58	388	V. Shekh Mahomed Hassan of Lahore.	Shekh Sandhe Khan.	23	Related to No. 13.
59	389	V. Ram Singh Sud, of Lahore.	Son (adopted) of Sardar Ishar Singh.	41	

# LAHORE DISTRICT.

xiii

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.		Name, family and place of residence.	Father's name.	Age.	REMARKS.
In the Division.	In the Province.				
60	390	P. Fatah Jang Khan, of Lahore.	Nawab Bahadar Jang Khan, of Dadri.	42	
68	409	V. Sodhi Hukam Singh, of Lahore and Dhillwan, Ferozpur.	Sodhi Bam Singh, of Dhillwan, Ferozpur.	43	
70	424	V. Seth Ram Ratan, Rai Bahadar, of Mian Mir.	Bansi Lal, Banker.	48	
71	425	V. Rai Bahadar Mela Ram, of Lahore.	Dhanpat Rai ...	60	
71A	425A	V. Sardar Baghel Singh, of Kula, Kasur.	Sardar Suchet Singh, Kamla.	24	Related to No. 155. Usually resides at Baraich, Oudh.
72	426	V. Diwan Das Mal, Rai Bahadar, of Lahore.	Narinjau Das...	72	
73	428	V. Colonel Sakandar Khan, of Lahore.	General Ilahi Bakhsh.	61	
76	551	V. Parohit Harkishan Das, of Lahore.	Gulab Rai ...	31	Related to Bishan Das, of Gujranwala. Provincial List No. 552.
97	578	V.* Munshi Harsukh Rai, of Lahore.	Lala Kishan Sabai.	69	Proprietor of the Keh-i-sar Newspaper, Lahore.
124	653	P. Shiv Ram Das, of Lahore.	Diwan Mutsadi Mal.	57	
136	656	P. Sardar Balaka Singh, Zaildar of Kila Dharam Singh.	Fateh Singh ...	55	
150	673	P. Mian Karim Bakhsh, of Lahore.	Chandhri Ruala.	60	
151	731	P. Lala Durga Parshad, of Lahore.	Lala Chota Lal.	55	
152	732	V. Sheikh Nanaik Bakhsh, Pleader of Lahore.	Sheikh Usman Ali.	54	
153	733	P. Jalaludin, of Baghbanpur.	Nabi Bakhsh ...	50	
154	734	P. Chanda Singh, of Lahore, late Inspector of Police.	Ram Chand ...	84	
155	735	P. Sardar Tara Singh, of Kala (Ferozpur).	Sardar Bahadar Sher Singh, Kamla.	37	Related to No. 71A.
156	736	Gurmukh Singh, of Ferozpur.	Sardar Dharam Singh.	54	

\* Died in the autumn of 1890.



ORDER OF PRECEDENCE		Name, family and place of residence.	Father's name.	Age.	REMARKS.
In the Division.	In the Province.				
155A	736A	P. Lala Lal Chand, M. A., Pleader.	...	...	Professor in the Government College, Lahore.
157	737	P. Pandit Janardhan, Hakim, of Lahore.	Pandit Sarab Sukh	45	
158	738	P. Sardar Godar Singh, of Chunian.	Gatan Singh, of Mokal	62	
159	741	P. Maulvi Mahomed Din, M.O.L., of Lahore.	Hafiz Nuradin.	37	
160	742	P. Harbas Rai, M.O.L. (alias Abdul Aziz), of Dera Ismail Khan, Munsif.	Indri Ram ...	26	Professor at the Oriental College, Lahore.
161	743	P. Maulvi Ghulam Mustafa, M.O.L., of Lahore.	Maulvi Fazaal Din.	37	
162	744	P. Lala Umrao Singh, M. A.	Ram Gopal, of Gurgaon.	31	
163	745	P. Pandit Harkishan Das, M.A., of Gujarawala, Munsif.	Pandit Vidia Dhar.	27	
164	746	P. Maulvi Mahomed Hasain, M.A., of Rohtak, Extra Assistant Commissioner.	Maulvi Saif-ul-Rahman.	39	Camp Clerk to H. H. the Lieutenant-Governor. Related to No. 153.
		P. Ghulam Mohamudin, of Baghbanpur.	Badarudin ...	43	
		P. Hafiz Habibula, of Kasur.	Hafiz Ghulam Mustafa Khan.	36	
		P. Zulfiqar Khan, of Kasur.	Nasir Khan ...	28	
		P. Sahib Khan, of Balu, Lahore.	Malik Kamaludin Khan.	26	Secretary, Municipal Committee, Kasur.

# DARBARIS OF THE AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.		Name, family and place of residence.	Father's Name.	Age.	REMARKS.
In the Division.	In the Province.				
2	6	V. Sardar Bakhshish Singh Sindhanwalla, of Raja Sansi.	Raja Shamsher Singh (adoptive).	25	Related to No. 20.
5	30	V. Sardar Dayal Singh Majithia, of Lahore.	Sadar Laha Singh.	43	Related to Nos. 8 and 21.
6	31	V. Sardar Umrao Singh Majithia, of Amritsar.	Raja Surat Singh.	15	Related to No. 5.
18	73	V. Bhai Gurbakhsh Singh, of Amritsar.	Bhai Parduman Singh.	21	Related to No. 175.
20	75	V. Sardar Randhir Singh Sindhanwalla, of Raja Sansi.	Sardar Ranjodh Singh.	22	Related to No. 2.
21	76	V. Sardar Gajinder Singh, of Majithia.	Ditto.	20	Related to No. 6.
30	173	V. Sardar Jiwan Singh, of Atari.	Sardar Thakar Singh.	50	
31	197	V. Sardar Arur Singh, Naushera Nangli.	Sardar Harnam Singh.	24	
38	205	V. Sardar Lachhmi Sahai, of Amritsar.	Rai Mizar Gaijan Chand.	52	
54	378	V. Sardar Hira Singh, Man.	Sardar Jawala Singh.	48	
61	391	V. Bawa Sundar Singh, Jati, of Jodha Nagri.	Dawa Lachman Singh.	60	
66	400	V. Sardar Hardit Singh, of Chinali.	Sardar Sundh Singh.	57	
67	401	V. Sardar Sant Singh Aitawala.	Sardar Nabar Singh.	55	
74	500	V. Sardar Arjun Singh, of Chahal.	Sardar Jawala Singh.	41	
98	531	P. Sardar Jawala Singh.	Panjab Singh.	...	
100A	583A	V. Rai Gagar Mal Bahadar, of Amritsar.	Chamba Mal.	61	
101	584	V. Jodh Singh, of Chapa.	Ram Singh.	66	
102	585	V. Sardar Partab Singh, Basalder, of Jetuwal.	Atar Singh.	52	



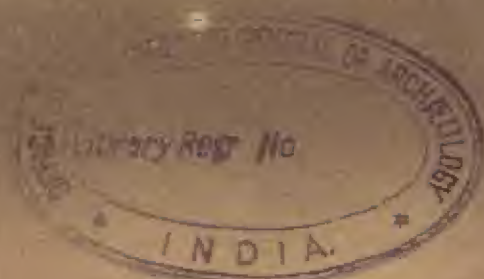
ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.		Name, family and place of residence.	Father's name.	Age.	REMARKS.
In the Divi- sion.	In the Pro- vince.				
103	596	V. Sardar Lahna Singh, Rasaldar.	...	...	
104	587	V. Bhai Ishar Singh, of Amritsar.	Bhai Sahib Singh.	43	
105	588	V. Bhai Bhagat Singh Garanthi, of Am- ritsar.	Bhai Lahna Singh.	47	
106	589	V. Nahar Singh, Suba- dar, of Nathu Chak.	Tek Singh.	65	
112	598	P. Bhai Tara Singh, of Amritsar.	Bhai Kesar Singh.	35	
113	599	P. Bhai Gulab Singh, of Amritsar.	Bhag Singh.	61	
114	600	P. Hakim Hisamudin, of Amritsar.	Hakim Gul Ma- homed.	55	
115	601	P. Bhagwan Das, of Bhikwal.	Maya Das.	52	
175	774	P. Bhai Lahna Singh, Giani, of Amritsar.	Gurmukh Singh.	54	Related to No. 18.

LAHORE DISTRICT.



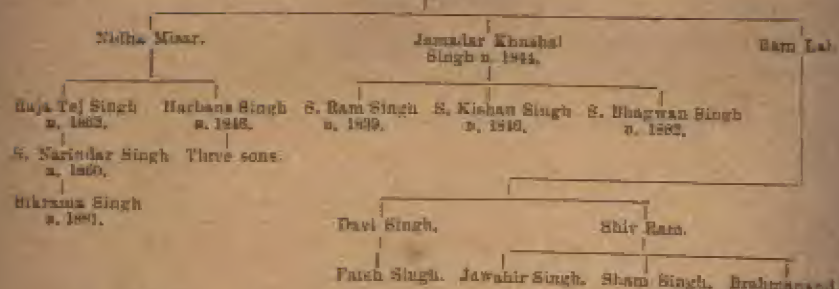






## RAJA HARBANS SINGH.

HAR GOBIND.



The father of Khushal Singh was a Brahman shop-keeper of the Gaur class, and resided at Ikri, in the Sardhana pargana of the Mirat district. The family was poor, and in the year 1807, Khushal, a young man of seventeen, came to Lahore to seek his fortune, and was taken into the Dhonkal Singhwala Regiment, then newly raised, on five rupees a month. He soon made friends with Jatri and Ganga Singh, the Maharaja's chamberlains, and was placed on the personal guard of Ranjit Singh. Here, by his vigilance, aided by good looks and soldierly bearing, he attracted the favourable notice of the Maharaja. The story told by the family is that, one night, Ranjit Singh went out in disguise, and on his return to the palace was stopped by Khushal, who was on guard, and who kept his master in the watch-house till the morning, and that this vigilance pleased the Maharaja so much that he kept Khushal by him, as a personal attendant.\* However

\* The popular story regarding Khushal Singh's rise to power, states that Ranjit Singh was first attracted by the singing of the poor man, who was keeping guard over the tent at night. In the morning he called for the singer, and, seeing that his face was as pleasing as his voice kept him about his person.



this may be, it is certain that Khushal rose daily in his master's favour till, in 1811, he was appointed *Deorhiwala* or chamberlain, with the title of Jamadar. The appointment was one of importance. The chamberlain was master of the ceremonies, regulated processions, and superintended the Darbar. It was through him alone that any individual, however high in rank, could obtain a private interview with the Maharaja, although the daily Darbar was open to all men of family or official importance.

The etiquette at Lahore, when the Maharaja went out, was as follows. First went one hundred troopers, two abreast. Then the Maharaja, with foot-orderlies at his stirrups, and an umbrella bearer; the princes immediately behind; then the Sardars and Barons, mounted, each with his umbrella bearer; and lastly, the elephants and led horses. If the Maharaja rode on an elephant, the Sardars must do the same; if he was carried in a palanquin, the Sardars followed on horseback.

The same year that Khushal obtained the charge of the Deorhi, he summoned from Mirat his nephew Tej Ram, then a boy of twelve. In 1812, he took the *pahal* (the Sikh baptism) and became a Singh. Tej Ram did not take the *pahal* till 1816, and then only by the Maharaja's express orders. He changed his name to Tej Singh, though he was almost as often called Teja Singh. Tej Singh is, however, the correct name.

Khushal Singh soon grew both rich and powerful. Most of the household appointments were given by him, with the Maharaja's sanction; and persons wishing a private audience of the Maharaja would give the chamberlain large sums to admit them. He used to read the daily reports of the army to Ranjit Singh, who soon began to employ him on active service. The young Tej Singh was his deputy during his absence from court. In 1816 the Jamadar was sent to occupy the country of certain Ranigarh Sardars. Sir Singh, Diwan

Singh and Khushal Singh,—and afterwards to seize the Ramgarhia estates at and around Amritsar. After this he proceeded to Mandi and Kulu, which States had become tributaries of Lahore, and remained for four months in the hills. He accompanied the Maharaja in the first Kashmir campaign in 1814. Raja Agar Khan of Rajaur proved a very treacherous ally. He misled Ranjit Singh as to the number of the enemy, and advised a division of the army; one detachment to pass into Kashmir by the Bhara Gala route, and the main body to proceed by Punch. This advice was followed, to the ruin of the expedition. Both divisions of the army were surrounded, their supplies cut off, and they finally were compelled to retire in all haste to Lahore. The retreat was a disastrous one. The Jamadar commanded the advance to clear the road of the enemy, while Hari Singh Nalwa, Nahal Singh Atariwala and Mit Singh Padhania covered the rear. Many men were lost, and Sardar Mit Singh himself mortally wounded. Tej Singh, who had been created a Sardar, was, in this campaign, in close attendance on the Maharaja. The next military service in which the Jamadar was concerned was the third and last siege of Multan in 1818. Prince Kharak Singh nominally commanded the army, but it was the military genius of Misar Diwan Chand that secured success. The Jamadar was in command at the Tomb of Shamash Tabrez.

Soon after the capture of Multan, the Jamadar fell somewhat into disfavour. His brother Ram Lal had arrived at Lahore in 1816, and had received an appointment in the body-guard. The Maharaja wished him to become a Sikh, but to this neither of the brothers would consent; and as the Maharaja became very urgent on the point, Ram Lal, with the connivance of the Jamadar, left the Panjab and returned to Hindustan. Ranjit Singh was much displeased, and Misar Diwan Chand, with whom the Jamadar had quarrelled about



the Multan booty, advised that he should be removed from the charge of the Deorhi. To this Ranjit Singh consented, for Mian Dhian Singh, a young Rajput in the Ghorcharhas, was now rising into favour, and on him the office of Deorhiwala was conferred. The Jamadar was taken by surprise, but wisely made no opposition, and retained all his jagirs, and was admitted to the Council, obtaining more real power than he had had before. He received command of four thousand irregulars, while Tej Singh was made General in the regular force.

Sardar Tej Singh accompanied Misar Diwan Chand to Kashmir in 1819 and in 1821. Both he and the Jamadar commanded divisions in the campaign against Mankera, Leiah and Dera Ismail Khan; and also in the Peshawar campaign of 1823. At the battle of Tehri they were with the Maharaja, opposed to the Yusufzais on the right bank of the Lunda river; while the main body of the army, under Sardars Hari Singh Nalwa and Budh Singh Sindhanwalia, were engaged with the Barakzai Sardars on the left bank. After the battle the Sikh army advanced upon Peshawar, after having taken Jahangira from Firoz Khan Khatak, of Akora. Peshawar was plundered, and the troops pushed on to the Khaibar, but little was to be done there; the wild Khaibaris cut the embankments of the Bara river, and flooded the Maharaja's camp, carrying off in the confusion horses and other spoil, and after a short stay Ranjit Singh returned to Lahore.

In 1828 the Jamadar and his nephew, with the Nalwa, Padhanias and Majithia Sardars, reduced the Katoch country, and the forts of Chauki, Aimahgarh, Tira and Rial. The last mentioned place alone offered much resistance; but Tej Singh brought up some guns from Sujampur on elephants, and after three days the garrison surrendered. In 1832 the Jamadar was sent to Kashmir to assist Prince Sher Singh, the Governor, under whose administration the revenue had much

fallen and the people become discontented. The advent of the Jamadar did not mend matters. He knew nothing of finance, and only cared about pleasing the Maharaja. The season of 1832 had been a bad one in Kashmir, and the Jamadar converted scarcity into famine by his oppression. The few lakhs which he managed to screw out of the people did not count for much, when the annual revenue was diminished by two-thirds, and the inhabitants forced to leave the country in search of bread; and Ranjit Singh was for a time much displeased, but the Jamadar soon recovered his influence. General Mian Singh was sent to succeed him in Kashmir with fifty thousand maunds of grain for distribution to the poor, but it was many years before Kashmir recovered its former prosperity. Ram Lal, brother of Khushal Singh, had returned to the Panjab, and he took command of the Jamadar's forces in the Peshawar campaign of 1834 under Sardar Hari Singh and Prince Nao Nahal Singh. Jamadar Khushal Singh and Raja Dhian Singh were in command of the forces which marched to relieve the Sikh army blockaded at Jamrud in April 1837. Although the Jamadar reached Peshawar two days before Dhian Singh, he made no effort to relieve the Sikh army, which was in the greatest straits, till the arrival of the Raja. After the retreat of the Afghans, the Jamadar remained at Peshawar, while Tej Singh was ordered to the Chaj Doab to preserve order.

Ram Singh, the eldest son of the Jamadar, was, about this time, made a General in the army, although a mere boy. He had, however, the passions of a man, and after having returned in 1837 to Amritsar with the Maharaja, murdered brutally, with his own hand, Bishan Singh, brother-in-law of Colonel Chet Singh, a fine young man, who had offended him by a boyish jest. Such was the influence of the Jamadar, that Ram Singh remained unpunished, with the exception of a fine, although his victim had been a favourite at court.



In 1838 Tej Singh was sent to Hazara, and built there the fort of Manakgarh near Darband. In 1839 he proceeded to Peshawar with the Jamadar, Prince Nao Nahal Singh, Raja Gulab Singh and other Chiefs to co-operate with the British army invading Kabul; but the Sikh co-operation, as is notorious, was more damaging than serviceable, as the expedition was regarded by the Sikhs with distrust and dislike.

General Ram Singh died in this year. Although of a cruel disposition, he was a good officer, and seems to have been the cleverest of the family. After the accession of Maharaja Kharak Singh, both the Jamadar and Tej Singh joined in the conspiracy against Sardar Chet Singh, favourite of the new Monarch, who had shown ill-feeling towards them, and had deprived the Jamadar of a portion of his command. On the night of the murder, Prince Nao Nahal Singh, with Tej Singh and Khushal Singh, remained at the gate of the palace to guard against a rescue; while the other conspirators, the Rajas Gulab Singh and Dhian Singh, and the Sardars, Fateh Singh Man, Atar Singh Sindhanwalia and Mian Labh Singh, entered the palace and murdered the favourite in the very presence of the Maharaja.

While Prince Nao Nahal Singh held power, the family of the Jamadar was treated with great favour; and on his death, on the 5th November 1840, both Khushal Singh and Tej Singh signed, with the other Chiefs, a paper, by which it was agreed that no action should be made in appointing a successor to the throne till it was seen whether the wives of the Prince or the Maharaja would bear a son. The succeeding events are well known. The Sindhanwalia Sardars and Raja Gulab Singh defended the fort against Prince Sher Singh; while Tej Singh and Khushal Singh kept wisely at home, joining neither party, but waiting to see what turn affairs would take. Sher Singh was much irritated by their

conduct, and, on his accession, had serious intentions of putting them both to death, but they were at length forgiven, on the intercession of Bhai Gurmukh Singh. But Sher Singh entertained a grudge against the Jamadar, and is said on one occasion to have tried to make away with him in a manner that should appear accidental. Certain it is that soon after Sher Singh's accession, he was in a pleasure boat on the Ravi with the Jamadar and Amar Singh Ahluwalia, great-granduncle of the present Raja of Kapurthala. The boat was overturned; the Maharaja sprang into another boat alongside; Amar Singh was drowned, and his body never recovered; while the Jamadar, who managed to escape, swallowed more water than he had done for many years. It was generally believed in Lahore that Sher Singh capsized the boat intentionally, but this can never be proved.

The Jamadar had been in bad health ever since 1840. In July 1844 he died, having mixed but little in politics during the three last years of his life. In June 1843 he had, with Rajas Gulab Singh and Suchet Singh, attended Prince Partab Singh in his visit to Lord Ellenborough at Ferozpur.

Jamadar Khushal Singh was not a man of any particular ability. The Maharaja took him into favour, not so much for his courage, genius or learning, as for his broad shoulders and good looks; though from the pictures taken of him late in life, he seems to have been an unusually coarse and vulgar-looking man. He was not, however, inferior to many other Sardars of the Maharaja's court; and if, in the many campaigns in which he served, he displayed no particular bravery, yet it is not anywhere stated that he ever ran away. Of his severity and oppression in Kashmir mention has been made; and on all occasions, trusting to the Maharaja's favour, he showed himself something of a tyrant. At Amritsar, to obtain ground for his own houses, he pulled down, without offering any compensation, many dwellings of the poorer classes;



but Ranjit Singh would not listen to any complaints against him, and would tell any one who came to appeal against the Jamadar to go and obtain justice from Guru Ram Das.

Sardar Tej Singh, at the time of the Jamadar's death, was at Peshawar, of which place he had, in 1843, obtained the command; and Raja Hira Singh, who was then Minister, and who had an old grievance with the Jamadar about the Chamberlainship, confiscated Rs. 1,60,000 out of the jagirs of Rs. 3,40,000 which had been all granted in the name of Khushal Singh, the family making the distribution among themselves. Kishan Singh, son of the Jamadar, a wild young man, spent in the ten days succeeding his father's death about a lakh of rupees upon the dancing girls of Lahore. Hira Singh made this the excuse for confiscation. "If you have so much cash to throw away," said he, "you can, of course, pay up seven lakhs for the good of the State." He also wanted to get a lakh out of Rai Mul Singh, the confidential agent of the family. Kishan Singh declared that he could not pay a rupee, and the jagirs were accordingly confiscated.

Tej Singh wrote from Peshawar to protest against the confiscation, and Pandit Jala said that when the Sardar returned to Lahore the matter should be considered; but before this took place the Ministry both of Hira Singh and of Jawahir Singh had fallen, and the Maharani, with her favourite, Lal Singh, had assumed the supreme power.

The government of Tej Singh at Peshawar was marked by almost the only piece of energy he ever displayed. When the troops under his command heard of the death of Raja Suchet Singh at Lahore, and of the large sums that had been given to the Lahore army, they rose in mutiny, and threatened that if all the money in the treasury was not given to them they would treat Tej Singh as General Mian Singh had been treated three years before in Kashmir. The Sardar amused the troops by promises of rewards, and called in all

the Afghan Chiefs of the valley to his help; and the next morning had so strong a force at his command that the mutinous regiments thought it best to recede from their demands. Raja Lal Singh recalled Tej Singh from Peshawar in October 1845, appointing Sardar Sher Singh Atariwala to succeed him. On his arrival at Lahore, Tej Singh found that war with the English was everywhere talked of as probable, and the project was favoured by the Wazir, Raja Lal Singh, and by the Maharani, who feared and hated the army that had recently murdered her brother Jawahir Singh. Tej Singh was wealthy and influential; and although he was looked down upon by the old Sikh Sardars, yet the position of the Jamadar and himself under Ranjit Singh gave him much power at court, and when war with the English was finally determined he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Khalsa army.

On the 17th of November the plan of the campaign was decided upon, and on the 23rd the army set out, in divisions, for Firozpur. But the Commander-in-Chief had little stomach for the fight, and it was not till the 15th of December, when all excuses for remaining behind were exhausted, that he set out to join the army which, four days previously, had crossed the Satlaj.

After the defeat of Raja Lal Singh at the battle of Mudki, he sent to Tej Singh to urge him to advance to his support. Accordingly the Sardar marched, with his division and some fifteen thousand irregular cavalry, and reached Firozshahar on the morning of the 22nd December, when the force of Lal Singh had been again defeated. Tej Singh advanced against the British army, which was completely exhausted and almost without ammunition. He drove in the British cavalry parties, and endeavoured to regain the lost position of Firozshahar. He then attacked the left flank of the British army, and made such a demonstration against the captured village as com-



pelled the English General to change his whole front to the right, the Sikh guns keeping up an incessant and heavy fire during this manœuvre. At last, when the English cavalry, advancing, threatened both flanks of the Sikh army, and the infantry prepared to advance in line for its support, Tej Singh ceased his fire, and, retiring from the field, crossed the Satlaj and encamped at Sobraon, about twenty-five miles north-east of Ferozpur, on the right bank of the river. Here the army was soon joined by Raja Lal Singh, who had fled to Amritsar after the defeat of Ferozshahar, and the troops demanded to be led across the river against the British. The only two Chiefs who opposed this movement were Sardar Tej Singh and Sham Singh Atariwala, who had joined the camp on the 28th December, most unwillingly. Their pacific intentions were, however, ridiculed by the Panchayats of the army, and it was determined to cross the Satlaj. A bridge of boats was thrown across the river, and a strong *tête-de-pont* constructed in front of it, and entrenchments, as strong as the sandy soil would allow, were thrown up. Sardar Tej Singh commanded in this entrenchment, and, for his own personal security, had a small shot-proof tower erected, into which he might retire in the hour of danger; and here the Sikh army waited, week after week, while the British army was drawing from every side men and guns and material of war. On the right Sardar Atar Singh Kalianwala commanded the irregular troops; on the left were the gallant Sham Singh of Atari and the brigade of General Mewa Singh Majithia, both of whom were killed in the battle of Sobraon. In the centre were the troops of Kahan Singh Man and the brigades of General Avitabile, General Mahtab Singh Majithia and General Gulab Singh Povindia. In the centre, too, was the brigade and tower of Sardar Tej Singh.

On the 10th February 1846 the battle of Sobraon was fought; but Tej Singh had so little to do with it that a



description of it would be here out of place. During the early part of the action he remained in his tower, and was only induced to come out by threats of personal violence. But even then, instead of heading the troops and encouraging them when they began to waver, he crossed the bridge, at which he had stationed a guard of his own men, and was one of the first to fly from the field. After the battle, what remained of the defeated army assembled at Pati, and afterwards marched to Bharana, where it was ordered to remain till after the Treaty of the 9th March 1846, when it was paid up; many of the soldiers being re-enlisted, and others being discharged. Before this, however, Sardar Tej Singh had been summoned to Lahore, and, under the new arrangements, he was confirmed in his appointment of Commander-in-Chief of the Sikh army, while Raja Lal Singh was confirmed as Wazir.

The conduct of Sardar Tej Singh, both before and during the Satlaj campaign, has been much misrepresented. He has been accused of treason to his country by many writers, and, in all probability, will be so accused by more; but there is no evidence whatever to support the charge. In the first place, the Sardar was averse to the war. While the Maharani, Raja Lal Singh and Diwan Dina Nath were urging the troops to invade British territory, in the hope that they would never return to disturb the peace of Lahore, Tej Singh spoke so constantly against the war, that his life was in imminent danger, and in the middle of November 1845 the troops were debating whether they should put both him and Lal Singh to death and insist on Raja Gulab Singh leading them to battle. When he was appointed Commander-in-Chief, much against his will, he delayed joining the army as long as he could; conduct which may prove cowardice or disinclination for the war, but which certainly did not savour of treason. But it is said that his conduct at Firozshahar was inconsistent with any

other supposition than that he was a traitor and desired the success of the British. That had he attacked the British army vigorously, and with all his force, when it was exhausted with its conflict with Raja Lal Singh, and almost without ammunition, it must, in all probability, have been annihilated. The result would certainly have been disastrous; but Tej Singh was not aware of the state of extreme exhaustion of the British army. All that he saw were the routed troops of Lal Singh flying to the fords of the Satlaj; a sight from which he might argue the strength, but not the weakness of the British. But he did not retire from the field without making an effort to retrieve the disasters of the preceding day. According to the despatch of Sir Hugh Gough (though the accuracy of despatches may be fairly questioned), "he made strenuous efforts to regain the position at Firozshahar"; he certainly kept up a heavy and damaging fire of artillery, and only retired when the British army advanced in force against him. But, even supposing that he had done less than he certainly did, Sardar Tej Singh cannot be fairly blamed. He had no influence whatever with the army, whose *panches* decided when they should fight and when they should retire. It is absurd to assert that, in opposition to the will of the *panches* and the army, Tej Singh could have refused to make a general attack on the British. Any negotiations which he may have wished to open with the Governor General, after Firozshahar, were only intended to bring about peace, and were of such a character as a Commander-in-Chief would have a discretionary power to carry on.

At Sobraon the voice of Tej Singh was again raised for peace, but the troops only threw stones at his tent, pulled it down, and threatened to murder him unless he crossed to the left bank of the river. Who can wonder that with such a savage, unruly army, he should have fled from the field,



feeling that there was more danger from his own men than from the enemy.

Tej Singh was a weak, timid, vacillating creature, but he was no traitor. He had neither courage nor ability sufficient to influence an insane Sikh army, but he did not, like Raja Lal Singh, first excite the troops to madness, and then betray them to destruction. The stories of his sinking a boat in the bridge at Sobraon to cut off the retreat of the Sikh army, and of his turning a battery of guns upon his own men, have never been supported by a fragment of evidence, though proof of their truth has been sought in every direction, and are evidently calumnies invented by some of his many enemies.

After the conclusion of peace, Sardar Tej Singh had plenty to do in disbanding the old army and enlisting new troops, and his conduct was approved by the Agent of the British Government at Lahore. In September 1846, very much to his disgust, he was ordered to proceed to Kashmir with Sardars Sher Singh and Mangal Singh, and Generals Kahan Singh Man and Lal Singh Moraria, to reduce the rebellion of Shekh Imamudin Khan. He pleaded illness, but at last set out with the troops. He was not alone in his disinclination for the campaign. With almost all the other Sardars he was unwilling to act under the orders of Raja Lal Singh, whose rapacity and meanness had disgusted them, and whose honesty they thoroughly doubted. When, however, Tej Singh had at last set out on the expedition he acted with energy and promptitude. His force left Lahore on the 1st of October, and reached Naushera on the 16th, having in this time crossed the Ravi and the Chanab, and marched over one hundred and twenty-five miles of country, the last twenty-five miles being an execrable hill road. Imamudin Khan did not attempt open resistance, and came into the camp of the Resident on the 1st of November; and the Sikh troops, having

no more to do, returned to Lahore. The trial and deposition of Raja Lal Singh was the result of this expedition, and, as a temporary arrangement, Sardars Tej Singh and Sher Singh Atariwala, with Diwan Dina Nath and Fakir Nurudin, were nominated a Council to carry on the business of the Government pending other arrangements. On the 16th December a Council of Regency was appointed, consisting of Sardar Tej Singh as President, Sardars Shamsher Singh Sindhanwalia, Ranjodh Singh Majithia, Sher Singh Atariwala, Atar Singh Kalianwala, Diwan Dina Nath, Fakir Nurudin and Bhai Nadhan Singh.

The Members of the Council had distinct duties assigned to them. Sardar Tej Singh was chief in the Council, and held supreme Military command; Diwan Dina Nath was Finance Minister; and Sardar Sher Singh superintended the Royal household. The task both of Sardar Tej Singh and of Diwan Dina Nath was an invidious one. They certainly threw all possible blame on Major Lawrence, the British Resident, and represented that they were but instruments carrying out his measures; but it was pretty well known that most of the redress that was obtained came, directly or indirectly, from the Residency, and that, but for the Resident, no arrears would be paid up, and consequently the two heads of the Council came in for more obloquy than they probably expected.

On the 7th August 1847 Sardar Tej Singh was created Raja of Sialkot, with its fort and adjacent villages, worth Rs. 28,000 per annum. The Maharani, who entertained a bitter hatred both against the British Resident, who destroyed her influence, and Tej Singh, who supported his policy, prepared an insult for the latter on the day of his installation. The young Maharaja had been schooled by her as to the part he was to play; and when Tej Singh came forward for the Maharaja to make the saffron *tika* (a sign of Rajaship) on his



forehead, the boy-king drew back and folded his arms, refusing to perform the ceremony. The Resident then called upon Bhai Nadhan Singh, the head of the Sikh religion, who officiated for the Maharaja; but the insult was much felt by Tej Singh, and so strongly showed the resolute hatred of the Maharani to the administration that it hastened her removal from Lahore to the fort of Shekhopura, where she remained under surveillance until her final removal from the Panjab. Early in the year she had been cognizant of, if not the instigator of, a conspiracy to murder the Resident and Raja Tej Singh. This design, known as the Parema conspiracy, was not joined in by any Sardar, and was never attempted to be carried into execution. On the 26th November 1842 Raja Tej Singh received the honorary title of Ujaldidar, Nirmal budh, mubazir, ul-mulk, Samsam u-daulah, Raja Tej Singh salar safdar jang, Raja Sialkot.

Throughout the rebellion of 1848-49 the Raja remained loyal to Government. That he, as well as Sardar Lahna Singh Majithia, knew of, or anticipated a revolt, is certain, and shortly before it broke out he wished to leave the Panjab for a time; but this idea was given up. The Raja had nothing in common with the rebels. He was not on good terms with Raja Sher Singh Atariwala or his father, Sardar Chatar Singh, whose avowed object was to restore to power the Maharani, the deadly enemy of Tej Singh. Should the Maharani regain power, the death of the Raja, or the confiscation of his property, was certain. Besides this, Tej Singh was almost the only man in the country who was tolerably contented. He was very wealthy; he had been created Raja and President of the Council, and was raised high above the whole Sikh aristocracy, and a revolution could only injure him. He was obnoxious to most of the Sikh Sardars, who looked upon him as an upstart and an impostor; feeble in council, and ridiculous in the field; and his ascendancy in the Darbar irritated them

beyond expression. Thus, Raja Tej Singh is entitled to no credit for loyalty, when disloyalty, whichever side conquered, must have been his ruin. But in times of danger motives do not count for much, and the Raja's actions were loyal, and his assistance valuable to the Government.

On the annexation of the Panjab, the personal jagirs of Raja Tej Singh, and Sardar Bhagwan Singh, the only surviving son of the Jamadar (Kishan Singh having been drowned at Sobraon after the battle), amounting to Rs. 1,52,779, were confirmed for life. To the Raja, Rs. 92,779, and to Bhagwan Singh, Rs. 60,000. Of their respective shares, Rs. 20,000 was to descend in perpetuity to the heirs of Raja Tej Singh, and Rs. 7,500 to those of Bhagwan Singh. After annexation the Raja was very useful in the disbandment of the Sikh army and in the formation of a new native force. In 1857 he was of much assistance in raising horsemen, and for his loyalty at that time he received a khilat of Rs. 1,000. In 1861 his scattered jagirs were consolidated, and the Ilaka of Batala granted him in exchange for them; and his title was also changed to Raja of Batala. He was also made a Jagirdar Magistrate, with the powers of a Deputy Commissioner. In 1862, at the recommendation of the Government of the Panjab, the Supreme Government granted two-thirds of his jagir in perpetuity, and to Bhagwan Singh one-sixth.

A son had been born to the Raja, in 1859, by Karam Kaur, widow of his cousin Kishan Singh, whom he had married in 1857. Previous to this, however, he had adopted a younger brother by a different mother, Harbans Singh, born in 1846, now at the head of the family.

Raja Tej Singh died of an affection of the chest on the 2nd of December 1862 at Lahore. His character will have been plainly seen from the above sketch of his life. He might have filled a subordinate position with credit, for he had no glaring vices, and perhaps as much virtue as



the majority of the world, but he was unfitted for times of revolution. He had neither courage nor ability ; and although he rose to be the first person in the State, next to the Maharaja, it was only because his fortune was greater than his desert.

The estate of Sardar Bhagwan Singh had never been separated from that of Raja Tej Singh, and there had been a long dispute between them regarding it. After the death of the Raja, a committee, consisting of Raja Sahib Dayal, Sardar Shamsheer Singh Sindhanwalia, Diwan Ajudhia Parshad and Diwan Shankar Das, was appointed by Government, and a satisfactory division of the property was effected.

Sardar Bhagwan Singh died at Amritsar in 1882, aged forty years. He had no sons. His widow claimed permission to adopt an heir, but this was refused by Government as it was ascertained that the Sardar had never expressed such a desire. His death was sudden, while in the enjoyment of perfect health, and there are no grounds for assuming he had given up hope of having children of his own, as alleged by the widow. He had held life jagirs of the annual value of Rs. 50,000, and jagirs in perpetuity aggregating Rs. 10,000 per annum. Failing lawful male issue, the whole grant lapsed to Government. But the widow and the old retainers of the Sardar were dealt with liberally. An allowance of Rs. 10,000 per annum for her life was made to the widow, and she was permitted to occupy rent-free certain houses and gardens of her deceased husband bought in by Government for this express purpose at a cost of Rs. 10,000. Fifteen of the Sardar's old servants received life pensions aggregating Rs. 3,220 per annum ; while steps were taken to discharge his debts, amounting to over two lakhs of rupees, by hypothecating with the creditors personal property yielding an income of Rs. 3,800 a year. The widow, Rani Karpa Davi, lives at Amritsar.

Raja Harbans Singh was made a ward of the District Court at Lahore on the death of his elder brother Tej Singh. The estates came under the management of Rai Mul Singh, an old confidential servant of the family, a Khatri of Gujaranwala, afterwards an Honorary Magistrate of Lahore. The faithful discharge of his stewardship was duly acknowledged by the bestowal of a khilat of one thousand rupees and a handsome letter of thanks from Government when he made over the estates to Raja Harbans Singh on his attaining the age of eighteen years in 1867. His management had been eminently successful. He paid off the heavy debts with which the property had been burdened by the late Raja, he met extraordinary charges connected with Harbans Singh's marriage and other ceremonies, raised the rentals of the garden and rakh lands four-fold, and handed over to the young Raja a handsome surplus of about seventy-five thousand rupees. This has long since been dissipated, and the estate is deeply involved. Harbans Singh had every opportunity which good masters and careful tuition afford of becoming an ornament to the higher ranks of the Panjab gentry. He is of amiable disposition; but in some respects the high hopes once formed of him have not been realized.

The jagir held by Raja Tej Singh's family was fixed at Rs. 56,112 per annum, of which Rs. 4,435 were assigned to Rai Mul Singh, and Rs. 4,004 to Sardar Narindar Singh; the remainder being held by Raja Harbans Singh. These shares were finally fixed by Government in 1873, after a correspondence extending over ten years. The birth of Sardar Narindar Singh in 1860 gave rise to much bitter feeling on the part of Raja Harbans Singh, who refused for many years to acknowledge the legitimacy of his nephew, or his right to share in the patrimony. Sardar Narindar Singh was educated in the Wards' School at Ambala. He attained his majority in 1881; and then there began a quarrel between the uncle and the



nephew, which was only settled four years later by the personal intervention of Sir Charles Aitchison, as Lieutenant-Governor of the Province. The parties made a compromise, which was drawn up in the form of an agreement, witnessed by the Lieutenant-Governor and the Secretary to Government, and duly accepted by the District Judge of Lahore, in whose Court Sardar Narindar Singh had instituted a suit for a share of the patrimony. Each was brought to acknowledge the status of the other. Raja Harbans Singh was duly recognized as Tej Singh's adopted son, and Narindar Singh's legitimacy was no longer questioned by his uncle. The latter made over to Narindar Singh house property in Amritsar and Hardwar valued at fifty-six thousand rupees; gardens at Amritsar and Lahore valued at Rs. 34,500; culturable land at Gamtala, Amritsar, yielding Rs. 2,915 annually; and rakhs in the Gujranwala district valued at Rs. 15,000. Further, a sum of Rs. 35,000 was paid in cash by the Raja to his nephew. Taking everything into consideration, it may be said that Sardar Narindar Singh has had no reason to regret having placed his case in the hands of arbitrators; while Raja Harbans Singh was also probably glad to have settled for ever the alleged rights of his nephew.

Sardar Narindar Singh has been married three times, and a son was born to him by his second wife in 1882. The Sardar was invested with criminal and civil powers in 1885, and he has since done good work as an Honorary Judicial officer. He was appointed a Member of the District Board of Lahore in 1884 and of the Municipal Committee in 1887. He lives at Lahore.

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NOTE.—The names of Raja Harbans Singh's sons were received too late for insertion in the pedigree table. They are:

Kirath Singh s. 1882.

Fateh Singh s. 1883.

Kesri Singh s. 1885.

## NAWAB SIR NAWAZISH ALI KHAN, K.C.I.E.



Sardar Ali Khan, the grandfather of Ali Raza Khan, was the first to leave the province of Sherwan, on the west coast of the Caspian (now part of the Russian territories), where for many generations his family, Turks of the Kazalbash tribe, had resided and exercised authority. When Nadar Shah, having driven out the Ghiljis and taken possession of Khurasan, prepared to march to India in 1738, he took with him Ali Khan and other Kazalbash nobles, who he feared in his absence might excite disturbances.

Ali Khan served throughout the campaign, and on his return from India he was appointed by Nadar Shah Governor of Kandahar, and other Kazalbash nobles received com-



mands in Kabul and Peshawar, much to the advantage of the kingdom of Persia, which, freed from these turbulent Chiefs, enjoyed peace for eight years, till the assassination of Nadar Shah and the rise to power of Ahmad Shah Durani. The new Prince was crowned at Kandahar in 1747, and, although he thoroughly distrusted the Kazalbash faction, yet he was not strong enough to oppose it, and was compelled to give to its principal Chiefs jagirs and military commands.

Ali Khan obtained the district of Hazara, north of Kandahar, and with a strong force reduced the country around, to the neighbourhood of Hirat itself. He accompanied Ahmad Shah on his last invasion of India, in 1760, and shared in the great victory of Panipat, which broke the Mahrata power. The bravery and influence of Ali Khan during this campaign excited the jealousy of Ahmad Shah, who on his return to Afghanistan tried to deprive him of his estates and command; but Ali Khan held his own successfully against open force, and Ahmad Shah was at length compelled to bribe some of his attendants, who assassinated him in 1770. The eldest of the sons, Gul Mahomed Khan, was but six years of age at his father's death, and the district fell into great confusion. The widow of Ali Khan contrived to maintain her authority for some years; but at last the district was divided into several independent and hostile Chiefships, only united in their hatred of Timur Shah, who had succeeded Ahmad Shah on the throne of Kabul. When the sons of Ali Khan grew up, they recovered by force of arms a large portion of their family estate, and Timur Shah, thinking it well to conciliate them, summoned Gul Mahomed Khan to Kandahar, where he received him with honour and conferred on him the title of Sardar.

Hidayat Khan, father of Ali Raza Khan, accompanied Shah Zaman to Lahore in 1797, where he remained for some months. On his return to Kabul he exchanged estates with

Asad Khan, brother of the Amir Dost Mahomed Khan. In 1813 Ali Mahomed Khan, the youngest brother, with four thousand troops, accompanied Wazir Fateh Khan and his brother Mahomed Azim Khan in their successful expedition against Kashmir, and received there a high military command, which he held for about eight years, when, returning to Kabul, he obtained joint possession, with Hidayat Khan, of the family estate, and died in 1835 leaving two sons, Ali Akbar Khan and Ali Jan Khan. The elder son soon after died, and Ali Jan Khan succeeded to his father's share of the estate, which he still holds in Kabul.

Hidayat Khan died in 1836 leaving six sons, of whom the eldest, Mahomed Hasan Khan, served under the order of Wazir Fateh Mahomed Khan at Hirat; and when his master's eyes had been put out by Prince Kamran he escorted Khandal Khan and Sherdil Khan to Kandahar, where he remained for some years, and later went with his uncle to Kashmir. On his return to Kabul he resided with his brother Ali Raza Khan, and did good service to the British Government during the first Afghanistan campaign. Mahomed Hasan Khan, the second brother, was in great favour with Mahomed Azim Khan, and held a high appointment under him in Kashmir. After Azim Khan's death, Hasan Khan returned to Kabul, and took service with Dost Mahomed Khan. In 1844 he went on pilgrimage to the holy places in Arabia, where he lived for some years. He is now living in Kabul. The third brother is Haji Mahomed Khan, who was Minister of Habib ulla Khan, the Ruler of Kabul between the death of Azim Khan and the accession of Dost Mahomed. On the accession of that Prince he retired to Mecca, and on his return took up his abode with Ali Raza Khan, with whom he still resides.

Ali Raza Khan had always lived on his hereditary estate, which was of the description called in Afghanistan



'Zarkharid' hereditary, but subject to military service. When the British army, with Shah Shuja, first entered Kabul in 1839, Ali Raza Khan, being possessed of great influence in the city, was appointed chief Agent of the Commissariat Department. His conduct in this office was unexceptionable, and he never failed in any engagement to supply grain or carriage. When the British cantonment was besieged by the insurgents, he remained firm to English interests, and kept the troops supplied with food and clothing. When the British officers and ladies were taken prisoners, Ali Raza Khan made the greatest exertions to alleviate their sufferings and obtain their liberation. He paid to their keeper, Mahomed Shah Khan Ghilzai, five hundred rupees a month, besides bribing the subordinate officers to induce them to treat the prisoners well, and to allow his servants to convey to them clothes, money and provisions. Nor did his humanity end here. He ransomed and saved from slavery nearly one hundred Hindustani sepoy, and kept them secretly in his own house till the second British army entered Kabul.

When Mahomed Akbar Khan had sent off the prisoners to Khulm by way of Hazara and Bamian, Ali Raza Khan, who possessed great hereditary influence in that country, persuaded and bribed the Hazara Chiefs not to allow the captives to be conveyed to the hills, and he also sent his agent Murtaza Shah, with a large sum of money, to attempt to win over Saleh Mahomed Khan, who was in command of the escort. It was by his influence and by a lavish expenditure of his money that the captives were enabled to make their escape and join the relieving army of General Pollock. When Akbar Khan advanced to attack that General, Ali Raza Khan won over the Kazalbash Chiefs to the side of the British, and they accordingly deserted Akbar Khan before the battle; and after his defeat their hostility made him fear to return to Kabul, and accordingly he fled through the hill country to Turkistan.

On the retreat of the British forces to India, Ali Raza Khan accompanied them. His conduct had excited the bitter hatred of Mahomed Akbar Khan and the Barakzais, and his life was no longer safe in Kabul. His estates (worth three lakhs of rupees) were confiscated, his houses razed to the ground, and with their materials Akbar Khan built two houses for himself.

Such is the dry detail of services the most disinterested, noble and chivalrous, performed by Ali Raza Khan. At the greatest personal risk, with the loss of his wealth, position and hereditary estates, Ali Raza Khan stood bravely and alone in defence of the side to which he had promised allegiance. But he and his family have done good service to the English Government in India as well as in Afghanistan. During the Satlaj campaign he joined the British camp with his brothers and sixty horsemen of his tribe, many members of which had shared his exile and fought in the battles of Mudki, Firozshahar and Sobraon, where four of his sowars were killed. He accompanied Major H. Lawrence to Kangra and Kashmir in 1846, and during the rebellion of 1848-49 furnished one hundred horsemen under the command of his sister's son, Sher Mahomed, for active service. In June 1857, when our need was greatest, Ali Raza Khan volunteered to raise a troop of horse for service before Delhi. This he did and, his own presence being desired at Lahore, he sent them under the command of his brothers Mahomed Raza Khan and Mahomed Taki Khan. In raising this force he did not, at a time when the Government was in want of every procurable rupee, apply for any pecuniary assistance. At his own expense, and by the mortgage of his house and property in Lahore, he equipped the troop and sent with it, besides his brother, his nephews Abdula Khan, Mahomed Hasan Khan, Mahomed Zaman Khan, Ghulam Hasan Khan and Sher Mahomed Khan. Forming part of the celebrated "Hodson's Horse," the troop raised by Ali Raza Khan served



throughout the campaign wherever that gallant corps was sent, and its gallantry was ever conspicuous.

At Khasniganj, Mahomed Taki Khan was slain, fighting bravely, after several mutineers had fallen by his hand. Mahomed Raza Khan, the second brother of Ali Raza Khan, was among the bravest in his fearless regiment. He was twice wounded at Malu and Shamsabad, and had two horses shot under him; and in every place where blows were thickest, there was the gallant Mahomed Raza Khan to be found. After the campaign he received the first-class Order of Merit, the title of Sardar Bahadar, and the grant of his pension of Rs. 200 in perpetuity. He died at Lucknow, whither he had gone on leave, shortly afterwards.

Ali Raza Khan was an Honorary Magistrate of Lahore, justly possessing great influence in the city; influence which he has always used for good. After his retirement from Kabul he received a pension of Rs. 800 per mensem, and his brother Mahomed Raza Khan Rs. 200 per mensem. After the mutinies he received a grant of a talukdari of one hundred and forty-seven villages in Baraich, Oudh, worth Rs. 15,000 per annum. He also received the title of Khan Bahadar; and his nephews, above-mentioned, who served so well during the mutinies, the title of Sardar Bahadar. He was created a Nawab in 1864, two years before his death.

Ali Raza Khan had three sons, the eldest of whom, Nawazish Ali Khan, was with Major G. Lawrence at Peshawar when the Sikh troops mutinied in 1848. He remained with that officer to the last, and his fidelity cost him his house and property at Peshawar. The third son, Nasar Ali Khan, is in charge of the Oudh estate. He has there been created an Honorary Assistant Commissioner, and his conduct has given complete satisfaction to the authorities.

The title of Nawab passed to his son Nawazish Ali Khan, the present holder, on the death of Ali Raza Khan in 1866.

This gentleman has proved himself a worthy successor to his father. He has devoted his whole life to public interests and has earned for himself in these days of peace and tranquillity a name that stands high on the list of Panjab nobles for honour and integrity. He was appointed an Honorary Assistant Commissioner in 1877. He has held the appointment of President of the Lahore Municipal Committee for three years. In 1885 the Companionship of the Indian Empire was conferred upon him, and three years later he was created a Knight of the same Order. He was nominated an Additional Member of the Legislative Council in 1887, and one year earlier he received, as a grant from Government, the proprietary rights in Razh Taliana, Lahore.

Thus, for fifty years Ali Raza Khan and his family have served the British Government with a devotion which has been as perfect as it has been disinterested. He was not by birth a British subject; but it would be difficult throughout Hindustan to find a family, however bound to the English Government by gratitude or duty, which has, for its sake, risked so nobly and disinterestedly life and everything that can make life desirable. As long as the first Kabul campaign, with the greatest disaster that ever befel the British arms, is remembered; as long as the sorrows and the glories of 1857 are household words amongst us—so long should the name of Ali Raza Khan and his gallant family be remembered by all true Englishmen with gratitude and esteem.

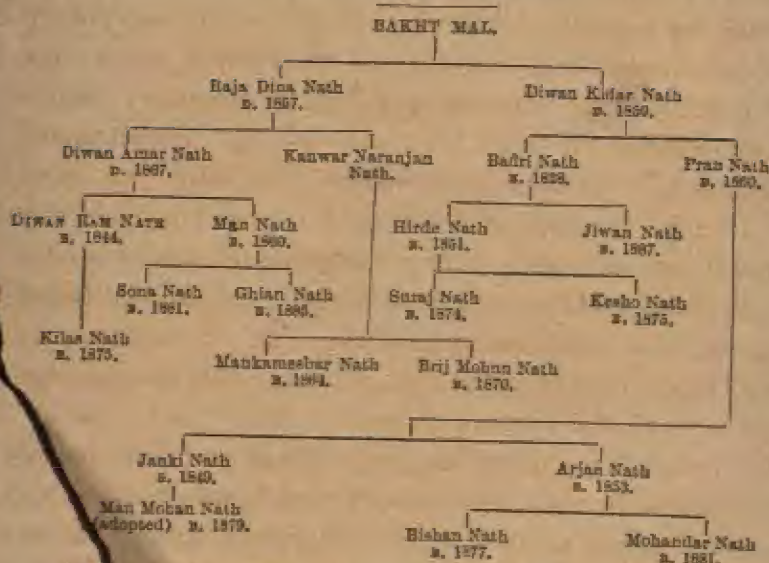
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NOTE.—The Kasalbash still possess great influence in Kabul, where they number some 8,000 or 10,000. They inhabit a separate quarter to the south-west of the city, strongly fortified, known by the name of Chahdol. The present Minister in Kabul (Mustanû) is a Kasalbash; the chief officers are filled by members of the tribe; and the mother of Doat Mahomed himself was a lady of this tribe. The Shah of Persia is said to be now intriguing with the Kasalbash faction to weaken the Kabul Government.—(GUTHRIE—1864.)

Kasalbash قزل باش or 'red-head' is of Turki derivation, and by some is said to have arisen from the red caps worn by the captives given to Sbekh Haidar by Tamarians. D'Herbelot, however, in his *Bibliothèque Orientale*, published in 1887, states that the name originated with Ismail, founder of a line of kings who reigned in Persia from 907 A. H., who commanded his soldiers to wear a red cap, around which a torban of twelve folds was bound in honour and in remembrance of the twelve Imams, the successors of Ali, from whom he professed to have descended.



## DIWAN RAM NATH.



Among the men who rose to power during the latter days of the Sikh empire, the most remarkable was Raja Dina Nath. He has been well and happily styled the Talleyrand of the Panjab, and his life and character bear a strong resemblance to those of the European Statesman. Revolutions, in which his friends and patrons perished, passed him by; dynasties rose and fell, but never involved him in their ruin; in the midst of bloodshed and assassination, his life was never endangered; while confiscation and judicial robbery were the rule of the State, his wealth and power continually increased. His sagacity and far-sightedness were such, that when, to other eyes, the political sky was clear, he could perceive the signs of a coming storm, which warned him to desert a losing party or a falling friend. Honest men do not survive many revolutions, and the Raja's falseness was the measure of his success. He was patriotic, but his love of country was subordinate to his love of self. He hated the English with a bitter hatred, for they were stronger than he or his country;

but his interests compelled him to serve, like Samson, the Philistines he hated. He was not without his own notions of fidelity, and would stand by a friend as long as he could do so with safety to himself. Even when he deserted him, it was more from fear of danger to his wealth and influence than from personal fear, for Raja Dina Nath was physically brave, and also possessed, in an eminent degree, moral courage, though it did not lead him to do right, regardless of consequences. As a financier, the policy of the Raja was intelligent and liberal, and he readily appreciated the advantages of the new system of taxation introduced by the English. He possessed immense local knowledge, and as vast a capacity for work; though, from his desire of keeping power in his own hands, he sometimes retarded instead of advancing business. He was an accomplished man of the world, courteous and considerate; well educated, though nothing of a scholar; and in conversation with Europeans, he would express himself with a boldness and apparent candour, that were as pleasant as they are unusual in Asiatics.

Raja Dina Nath should not be judged harshly. His faults would be still considered in some European countries as diplomatic virtues. Among the Sikh barons who stood around the throne of the young Maharaja Dalip Singh, there was not one who honestly laboured for his country, or who would have made the smallest sacrifice to save her. If Raja Dina Nath was not more honest than his contemporaries, he was, at least, more patriotic.

The family of Raja Dina Nath came originally from Kashmir, where, in the reign of Shah Jahan, some members of it held office about the court. It was not till the reign of Mahomed Shah that Lachi Ram, the eldest son of Bishan Nath, left Kashmir for Lahore, where he obtained employment. Soon after he went to Delhi, whither he summoned his younger brother Har Das, and later to Lucknow, where



he chiefly resided. His son Dila Ram entered the service of the Nawab of Oudh, but was compelled to leave from some court intrigue. He then went into the English service, and was proceeding with the army to Mysore in 1791 when he was taken ill and died. Dina Nath, whose father Bakht Mal had held a subordinate civil appointment at Dehli, was invited to the Panjab in 1815 by Diwan Ganga Ram, a near connection, who was then head of the State office at Lahore. On his arrival he was placed in the same office, and very soon distinguished himself by his intelligence and business-like habits. He first attracted the notice of Ranjit Singh after the capture of Multan, in 1818, when he made out the lists of those entitled to rewards with great rapidity and clearness. He shortly afterwards adjusted the accounts of the province of Multan, which the first Nazim, Sukh Dayal, had thrown into great confusion. In 1826, when Ganga Ram died, he received charge of the Royal Seal, and in 1834, on the death of Bhawani Das, he was made head of the Civil and Finance office; and in 1838 he received the honorary title of Diwan. Ranjit Singh had the greatest confidence in Dina Nath's judgment, and his influence during the latter years of the Maharaja's reign was very great. He was consulted on every occasion of importance, and received jagirs in the Amritsar, Dinanagar and Kasur districts to the value of Rs. 9,900. During the time of Maharaja Kharak Singh and Nao Nahal Singh, Diwan Dina Nath retained his office, and received new jagirs, and Maharaja Sher Singh treated him with the same consideration. He was one of those in immediate attendance on the Maharaja\* when he was assassinated by the Sindhanwalias, and when Raja Hira

\* Diwan Dina Nath was standing immediately behind Sher Singh when the Sindhanwalias entered the apartment. He would, in all probability, have been wounded or killed by the shot which killed the Maharaja, had not Mahar Khasitah, a Sindhanwalia Wakil, who was in the plot, drawn him aside pretending to have something important to communicate to him.

Singh rose to power he had no more zealous adherent than the Diwan. When Hira Singh had quarrelled, or had pretended to quarrel, with his uncle Raja Gulab Singh, the Diwan was sent in company with Bhai Ram Singh and Shekh Imamudin to Jamu to arrange matters with the Raja, and their mission was completely successful. They returned, bringing with them as a hostage Mian Soban Singh, the son of Raja Gulab Singh, who was murdered with his cousin Hira Singh not long afterwards. On Hira Singh's death, Jawahir Singh, the debauched and contemptible brother of Maharani Jindan, obtained the chief power, but Diwan Dina Nath still held office.

After the murder of Prince Pashora Singh, the troops rose in mutiny and decided to kill Sardar Jawahir Singh, who had been the instigator of it. The Sardar was much alarmed, prepared the fort for defence, and on the 19th September sent Diwan Dina Nath, Atar Singh Kalianwala and Fakir Nurudin to conciliate the troops. The mission was only received with scorn, and Atar Singh and Dina Nath were kept prisoners in camp. Here they were detained till the 22nd, the day after the murder of Jawahir Singh, when the soldiery, over whom the Rani had still much influence, released them that they might soothe her violent grief; and they accompanied her back to the fort. Jawahir Singh was burnt with his four wives the same evening, and Diwan Dina Nath was present on the part of the Maharani. The unfortunate women who were to burn with the body were shamefully treated by the soldiery, who stripped them of their jewels and tore their nose-rings away. A *Sati* is a sacred object among Hindus, and her last words are considered prophetic. At the feet of these women, Dina Nath and others fell down, asking for their blessings. The *Satis* blessed him, the Maharani and her son, but cursed the Sikh army. When asked the fate of the Panjab, they answered



that during that year this country would lose its independence and the Khalsa would be overthrown; that the wives of the Sikh soldiers would be widows, but that the Maharaja and his mother would live long and happily. The words were remarkable; though, in truth, it did not require a prophet to tell that the Sikh army was rushing on its destruction.

After this, Diwan Dina Nath clearly perceived that, while the army remained as powerful and lawless as it then was, there was no safety for him or for any man who filled a conspicuous position; and with Raja Lal Singh, whose motives were similar to his own, and the Maharani, who longed to avenge her brother's death, he began to encourage in the army a desire for a war with the English, from which the conspirators hoped it would never return. Reports were industriously circulated tending to inflame the minds of the soldiers. The English, it was said, were determined to take advantage of the disordered state of the Panjab to overrun the country. The red coats were pouring up from Bengal, regiment after regiment, and some were even then preparing to cross the Satlaj. When the passions of the troops were sufficiently inflamed, a great Council was called at Shalamar early in November, and here the Diwan made an address so eloquent, artful and impassioned, that all present unanimously declared for war. The result of that war is well known; and Diwan Dina Nath is next seen signing the Treaty of the 9th of March 1846, by which the fairest portion of the Panjab was ceded to the English. Although the sentiments of Diwan Dina Nath with regard to the presence of the English at Lahore were well known, he was too wise to show much outward dissatisfaction: indeed he was anxious for the English to remain till the Government was strong enough to stand without external assistance. When in May 1846 the fort of Kangra held out, and the Agent of the Governor-General had gone there in person to superintend operations,

Dina Nath was ordered to follow him to induce the garrison, if possible, to listen to reason. In old days, Ranjit Singh had ordered the garrison never to open the gates to any one except to himself in person, Dina Nath, Fakir Azizudin or Misar Beli Ram; but on the present occasion the Diwan's influence, or desire to use it, was not very strong, and it was not till a fortnight after he came that the fort surrendered. The arrival of heavy siege guns from the plains had, perhaps, more to do with the surrender than the persuasions of Diwan Dina Nath.

When Raja Lal Singh, Wazir, was tried for treason in December 1846, Diwan Dina Nath defended him on the part of the Darbar with skill and energy, though in the face of most criminating facts. On his deposition the powers of Government were vested, as a temporary measure, in Sardar Tej Singh, Sardar Sher Singh, Fakir Nurudin and Diwan Dina Nath, and soon after four other influential Chiefs were added to the number, constituting, under the authority of the Governor General, a Council of Regency. The most able Member of the Council was undoubtedly Diwan Dina Nath; and although his position, as head of the Financial Department, gave him great opportunities of enriching himself at the public expense, which there is every reason to believe he availed himself of, he still worked more disinterestedly than others, and was of very great service to the Resident at Lahore. Without his clear head and business-like habits it would have been almost impossible to disentangle the Darbar accounts; and after the annexation of the Panjab, the Diwan's aid in revenue and jagir matters was almost as valuable as before. The Diwan was not a popular man at this time. The retrenchments which the lavish expenditure of the late Ministries had rendered imperative were very distasteful to the Sikh Sardars and soldiery, and the Diwan with Sardar Tej Singh came in for his full share of odium. In November 1847 the



Diwan was raised to the dignity of Raja of Kalanaur. The following is the honorary title he received on the occasion : *Amarat wa ayalat, dastgah; Khair andesh-i-daulat-i-alia, dyanatdar, mashir-i-khas, madar-ul-muham*. He received at the same time a jagir of Rs. 20,000 from the Ilaka of Kalanaur. In April 1848 the Multan Nazim, Diwan Mulraj, rebelled. In September 1846 Diwan Dina Nath had been sent by the Darbar to bring Mulraj to Lahore; and it was principally by his means that a satisfactory arrangement was made with the Nazim, who did not, however, cease to intrigue with the Ministry, and especially with Raja Dina Nath, for a modification in the terms of his agreement, up to the commencement of 1848. On the first news of the outbreak reaching Lahore, Raja Dina Nath was ordered, on the part of the Darbar, with Sardar Atar Singh Kalianwala, the Commander of the Irregular troops, to Multan, but was soon afterwards recalled. When Sardar Chatar Singh Atariwala had turned traitor, and the mission of Sardar Jhanda Singh Batalia to reclaim him had failed, the Resident sent Raja Dina Nath to endeavour to influence him. This mission failed as signally as the former one, for Sardar Chatar Singh, backed by the Sikh nation, had determined to try once more the fortune of war. Some there were who said that Raja Dina Nath was a traitor at heart; that he had himself encouraged the rising; and that, had he not been a wealthy man with houses and gardens and many lakhs of rupees in Lahore, convenient for confiscation, he would have joined the rebels without hesitation. But these stories were, perhaps, invented by his enemies. Certain it is that, on his being recalled to Lahore, he zealously carried out the wishes of the authorities in confiscating the property of the rebels and in counteracting their schemes.

After the annexation of the Panjab, Raja Dina Nath was confirmed in all his jagirs, worth Rs. 46,400 annually, which he held till his death in 1857. His eldest son Amar Nath

received during his father's life a cash pension of Rs. 1,200. On the Raja's death this was raised to Rs. 4,000, and on Amar Nath's death his pension was resumed and his son received a jagir of Rs. 4,000, to descend in perpetuity according to the rules of primogeniture. Amar Nath was not on good terms with his father, who during the Satlaj campaign had caused him to be removed from the paymastership of the Irregular forces. After the Raja's death Amar Nath refused to take any portion of his property, which accordingly went to the younger son, Naranjan Nath. The Raja had, however made a will leaving all his personal property to Naranjan, his favourite son.

Amar Nath was a man of considerable ability. He was, perhaps, the most classical poet in the Panjab, and some of his sonnets are of great beauty. In 1858 he published a history of the reign of Ranjit Singh. This work, though too elaborate in style for European taste, is undoubtedly the most valuable and interesting that any native author has produced since the annexation of the Panjab.

Diwan Kidar Nath, the Raja's brother, was for many years a servant of the Lahore State. He received the title of Diwan from Maharaja Dalip Singh, and on annexation received a life pension of Rs. 6,000. He died in 1859 leaving two sons, the elder of whom, Badri Nath, was a Member of Council in the service of the Maharaja of Jamu.

Pran Nath, the second son, was Tahsildar of Sowrian, and when the Tahsil establishment was moved to Ajnala he was transferred there. He was at Ajnala in 1857, and on the 31st of July about 500 disarmed sepoy of the 26th N. I. which had mutinied at Lahore the day before, and had committed four murders, arrived on the left bank of the Ravi near Balghat and prepared to cross the river. Pran Nath collected the villagers and the police, and attacked the mutineers with vigour, and killed some 150 of them. The



Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar, with Sardar Jodh Singh, arrived soon afterwards, and the remaining mutineers, who had retired to an island in the river, were captured and executed; an act of vigour which saved the country from a great danger. Pran Nath died in 1860 leaving two sons, who are now under the care of their uncle at Jamu.

Raja Dina Nath built at his own expense a Shivala (temple to Shiva) near the Police Court in the city of Lahore, and alienated for its support a jagir of Rs. 500, which is still maintained in perpetuity. Another Shivala he built near the Wazir Khan Mosque. He constructed a large tank at great cost near the temple of Achintbhawani Davi in the Kangra district, and another tank at Davipur near Shalamar, with a large building for priests and travellers. He also rebuilt, and endowed with the two villages Kotla and Chubanal, worth Rs. 2,200, the shrine of Mansa Ram Razdan, his spiritual teacher, and a great Hindu Saint, much venerated by Kashmiris, who died about 40 years ago. The grant is maintained in perpetuity.

Diwan Amar Nath died in 1867 leaving two sons, Diwan Ram Nath and Pandit Man Nath. The father's full pension of Rs. 4,000 has been continued to Diwan Ram Nath, with option to exchange the same for a jagir holding. It has been ruled that the maintenance will in any case take the form of a jagir upon the death of the present holder.

Diwan Ram Nath has been serving under the Panjab Government since 1863. He was appointed an Extra Assistant Commissioner in 1869 and an Extra Judicial Assistant in 1882. Upon the introduction of the reorganized judicial scheme in 1884, he was selected by Sir Charles Aitchison for a District Judgeship in the higher ranks of the Panjab Commission. This office he is now holding in the Jalandhar district. He has succeeded to his father's position on the Viceregal Darbar List, and is a Fellow of the Panjab University. He enjoys an

income of about Rs. 16,000 per annum, made up of salary and family allowances. He married in 1855 a daughter of the late Pandit Kidar Nath of Delhi, at one time Tahsildar of Ajnala in Amritsar ; and has a son, Kalas Nath, born in 1875, and a daughter married to Pandit Suraj Narain, nephew of Pandit Ratan Lal, Sub-Judge of Banda.

His younger brother Pandit Man Nath was born in 1860. He married in 1871 a daughter of the late Pandit Moti Lal, Extra Assistant Commissioner. He acts as Private Secretary to his relative Diwan Janki Nath, late Governor of Kashmir. He is a good English and Persian scholar, having graduated at the Panjab University and passed the examination for Pleaders in the North-West Provinces.

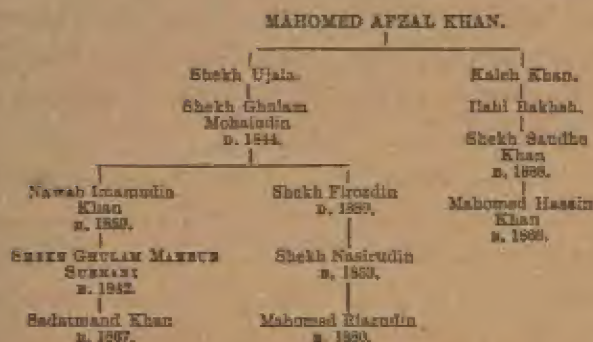
Raja Dina Nath's second son, Naranjan Nath, has two sons, Man Kameshar Nath, born in 1864, and Brij Mohan Nath, born in 1870. The former has married the daughter of Pandit Ajudhia Nath, an Honorary Magistrate in Lucknow, and the latter a daughter of Pandit Hirde Narain, Munsif in the Panjab.

Pran Nath, son of Diwan Kidar Nath, died in 1864 leaving two sons, Janki Nath and Arjan Nath, who are now with their uncle Diwan Badri Nath, a high official in the service of the Maharaja of Jamu. Both sons hold appointments under the Maharaja.

Diwan Badri Nath has two sons. The elder, Hirde Nath, has no employment. The second son, Man Mohan Nath, a minor, has been adopted by his first cousin, Janki Nath.



## SHEKH GHULAM MAHBUB SUBHANI.



Shekh Ujala, of the Kalal tribe, was a Munshi in the service of Sardar Bhup Singh of Hushiarpur. His son Ghulam Mohaiudin, when very young, attracted the attention of Diwan Moti Ram, son of the celebrated General Mohkam Chand, who placed him in attendance on his second son, Shivdayal. Here he soon became a man of importance, and managed all the affairs of Shivdayal, whose two brothers, Ram Dayal and Kirpa Ram, also favoured the young man and advanced his interests.

In 1823, when Mahomed Azim Khan of Kabul had marched to Peshawar to attack the Sikhs, Ranjit Singh wished, if possible, to induce the Afghans to retire without fighting. Karpa Ram put Ghulam Mohaiudin forward as well-suited to carry on the negotiation, and he accordingly bought over the 'Pir,' or spiritual adviser of Mahomed Azim Khan, who persuaded the Sardar to retire to protect his family and treasure at Michni, which the Sikhs intended to seize. Yar Mahomed Khan, brother of Mahomed Azim Khan, was also under Sikh influence, and the result was that the Afghan army was hastily broken up, and retired in confusion upon Michni and Jalalabad. Maharaja Ranjit Singh took possession of Peshawar, and, not thinking it wise to remain there long, divided the territory between Mahomed Yar Khan

and Dost Mahomed Khan, and returned to Lahore. Before he left, Ghulam Mohaiudin was sent on a mission to Mahomed Azim Khan, on the part of the Maharaja. He told the Sardar of the capture of Peshawar, and its delivery to the brothers who had betrayed him; and the news so affected the Chief with mortification and anger, that he fell ill and died twenty-two days later.

In 1827 Shekh Ghulam Mohaiudin accompanied his patron Karpa Ram to Kashmir, where the latter had been appointed Governor. The Shekh became sole agent for Karpa Ram, and he exercised his power with great cruelty and tyranny. In 1831, when, through the enmity of Raja Dhian Singh, Karpa Ram was recalled, Ghulam Mohaiudin was also summoned to Lahore, fined and imprisoned. But, later in the same year, he again proceeded to Kashmir as Agent and Lieutenant of Prince Sher Singh, who had been nominated to succeed Karpa Ram. The Prince knew little of business, and the Shekh acquired more power than ever, which he used more ruthlessly than before. The people cried out bitterly against his oppression, and, to add to their distress, Kashmir was in 1832 visited by famine. The Shekh was again recalled to Lahore and fined. He protested against the amount of the fine, which he said he could never pay; and the Maharaja directed Misar Rup Lal to confiscate his property at Hushiarpur. There was found concealed no less than nine and a half lakhs of rupees. Vainly the Shekh swore that this was money accumulated by his father in the service of Sardar Bhup Singh; but Ranjit Singh well knew that the little Sardar had never seen a lakh of rupees in his life, and that the treasure had been wrung from the starving Kashmiris. He confiscated the whole, and fined the Shekh Rs. 25,000 besides.

Ghulam Mohaiudin remained for some time out of employment, till Bhai Ram Singh, wishing to have a friend



about the person of Nao Nahal Singh with ability sufficient to counteract the influence of his enemy, Diwan Hakim Rai, placed him in the service of the Prince. Here he rapidly became a great favourite; and he accompanied the Prince to Peshawar and became his chief fiscal Minister. In 1839 he was made Governor of the Jalandhar Doab, and in the hot season of the next year was sent with General Ventura to subdue the Rajputs of Mandi. The progress of the troops was slow and, in September 1840, Sardar Ajit Singh Sindhanwalia was sent to their assistance with an additional force.

When Nao Nahal Singh was killed on the 5th November, the Shekh was still in the hills; but he quickly returned to Lahore and espoused the cause of Mai Chand Kaur, mother of the deceased Prince. When Sher Singh ascended the throne, the Shekh excused his opposition to him on the ground of fidelity to his late master, and so convinced Sher Singh of his sincerity that, on the arrival of the news of the murder of General Mian Singh, Governor of Kashmir, by his own men on the 17th April 1841, the Shekh was appointed to succeed him. He immediately left for Kashmir, and his son Imamudin Khan was summoned from Mandi to take charge of the Jalandhar Doab.

Raja Gulab Singh was sent with Ghulam Mohaiudin to restore order in Kashmir. The former had his hill troops; the latter the Jalandhar levies, chiefly Mahomedan. The Hazara troops and the Afghans of Pakhli and Dhamtaur who had revolted were, after some fighting, reduced to submission, and lastly the Kashmir mutineers were defeated and disbanded. The Shekh, who was Governor more on the part of Raja Gulab Singh than of the Lahore State, raised new regiments, consisting partly of hill Rajputs, subjects of Gulab Singh, and partly of Mahomedans. Being himself a Mahomedan, the Sikh authority in Kashmir depended thenceforward very much on the fidelity of Raja Gulab Singh.

The leading man in the hill country was Sultan Zabardast Khan, Raja of Muzafarabad. His capital, at which a small Sikh garrison was stationed, was on the road from Hazara into Kashmir. He was a man well disposed to the Lahore Government, in favour with Sher Singh, and had done good service in putting down the mutiny in Kashmir. This Chief, about two months after Sher Singh's death, was treacherously seized, while at prayers in a mosque, by Ghulam Mohaiudin, imprisoned and his jagirs confiscated.

At the same time disputes arose between Gulab Singh and his nephew Hira Singh, and the former used every means to attach the people of Kashmir and the hills to himself. In this he partially succeeded; and at all events he showed the hill Chiefs and Mahomedan population their own strength and the Sikh weakness so clearly that they determined to make a stand on their own account. Accordingly, in August 1844, Habibula Khan of Pakhli attacked the Sikh garrison of Khorī; but Ghulam Mohaiudin sent five hundred men to its relief, who defeated the insurgents and slew their leader. Soon after this, Raja Sultan Khan of Khorī, joined by a son of Habibula Khan and other hill Chiefs, attacked and reduced Khorī, and in October marched to Muzafarabad and attacked the forts. Ghulam Mohaiudin sent nearly all his Sikh troops to the relief of the garrison; but they were attacked and defeated by the insurgents, who burnt the town and killed such of their Sikh prisoners who would not adopt the Mahomedan faith. The son of Raja Zabardast Khan and the Rajas of Dobheta and Uri now joined the insurgents, who became so strong that, in November, they seized Baramula and occupied the pargana of Saupur, within a short march of the capital.

Ghulam Mohaiudin now first informed the Court of Lahore of the insurrection. General Gulab Singh Pevindia, then on his way to Peshawar, was ordered to advance into



Kashmir with his troops. Reinforcements were also sent by way of Punch and Jamu, but those sent by Raja Gulab Singh soon halted, the depth of the snow being the excuse; but the real reason was that the Raja did not wish to co-operate heartily till he had secured some advantages for himself; a retention of the salt mine leases; the re-possession of Hazara; and the restoration to favour of Chiefs, like Chatar Singh Atariwala, who in the late quarrel had espoused his cause.

The troops that marched by way of Punch were commanded by Imamudin Khan, son of Ghulam Mohaiudin. This young man, though he had served in the Derajat under Prince Nao Nahal Singh, had never been in action, and had no military reputation. He joined the Kashmir expedition with the greatest reluctance, and only consented to go on the understanding that no Sikh troops were to accompany him, for he was hated by them as the murderer\* of Bhai Gurmukh Singh and Misar Beli Ram.

In the meantime Kashmir had been entirely overrun by the insurgents, and Gulam Mohaiudin was shut up in the fort of Hari Parbat. The Mahomedan troops had revolted, the hill Rajas were all up in arms, and the Sikhs found they had their most difficult conquest to make over again.

Among the Yusufzais of Pakhli and Dhamtaur, and the tribes of Khaka and Bhamba, the insurrection was a religious one, and a man came forward calling himself the Khalifa or

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\* After the destruction of the Sindhanwalias, Raja Hira Singh arrested Bhai Gurmukh Singh, Misar Beli Ram and his brother Ram Kishan, and made them over to Imamudin Khan, who confined them in the stables adjoining his house, and here, a few days later, they were all three murdered.

Bhai Gurmukh Singh was an inveterate enemy of Raja Dhian Singh, and no surprise can be felt at Raja Hira Singh desiring his death; but Misar Beli Ram and his brother, though opposed in policy to Dhian Singh, were harmless men, and very generally beloved. Their death was barbarous and unnecessary. Misar Rnp Lal, who had been employed in 1832 to confiscate the property of Gulam Mohaiudin, was brother of Misar Beli Ram. By the murder of the latter it was supposed that the revenge of the Shekhs, rather than that of Raja Hira Singh, was satisfied.

vicar of the Sayad,\* and was joined by all the fierce population in the attack upon Hazara and Kashmir.

The force of Gulab Singh Povindia and Diwan Mulraj† at length advanced to Muzafarabad and relieved the garrison. It then marched into the valley, and after some severe fighting the insurgents were defeated. Raja Zabardast Khan was reinstated at Muzafarabad, and the neighbouring Rajas were made subordinate to him. In February 1845 Shekh Ghulam Mohaindin tried to open negotiations with the English Government, to which he tendered his allegiance and that of Raja Rahimula Khan of Rajaori. His proposals were rejected; and soon afterwards he died, it is believed, from poison, and his son Imamudin Khan, who was in Kashmir at the time, succeeded him as Governor.

The Shekhs (as the father and son were called) had neither family nor influence, and were useful to the Lahore State, chiefly as being unscrupulous collectors of revenue. Their names are not remembered with any affection either in Kashmir or in the Jalandhar Douab. They were hated by the Sikhs, and this was considered as a guarantee for their fidelity; but both father and son had a natural genius for treason and intrigue, which no considerations of prudence could overcome.

Imamudin Khan was Governor of Kashmir when that province was made over to Maharaja Gulab Singh by the Treaty of the 16th March 1846. This transfer was not popular at Lahore, and to Raja Lal Singh, the Minister, it was especially distasteful, for Gulab Singh had always been his rival and enemy. He accordingly sent instructions to Imamudin Khan to oppose the Maharaja, and directed the

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\* Sayad Ahmad, who was defeated and slain by Sher Singh and General Ventura in 1831. His followers (who are numerous all over India) asserted that the river shrank back to aid his escape and closed upon his pursuers, and that he would reappear and lead them to victory. His last stand was made in Pakhli and Dhamtane.

† Diwan Mulraj was Governor of Hazara, and must not be confounded with Diwan Mulraj, Governor of Multan.



troops to obey the Shekh implicitly. Imamudin Khan was willing enough to comply. He was very rich, and he understood that the success of the Maharaja signified not only the end of his exactions, but also the rigid scrutiny of his accounts by his declared enemies. It was popularly reported at this time that the family possessed from seventy lakhs to two crores of rupees; and although this was doubtless an exaggeration, yet it is certain that the father and son had amassed an immense fortune during their occupation of Kashmir and Jalandhar.

It is possible that Imamudin Khan, misapprehending the motives of the British Government, imagined that by the payment of a large sum of ready money he might be allowed to retain Kashmir as Viceroy, and with this object was ready to carry out the instructions of Raja Lal Singh and make a prolonged resistance to show his own power and resources. But, whatever were the reasons for his conduct, he disregarded the peremptory orders of the Darbar to evacuate the province; he induced by bribes many of the Maharaja's troops to join his standard; and with the assistance of Fakir-ula Khan, son of Raja Rahimula Khan of Rajaori and other hill Chiefs, he retained possession of the greater part of the country until a large force was sent from Lahore against him.

It was not until the army had reached the border of the Kashmir valley that the Shekh, seeing further opposition to be useless, came into Colonel Lawrence's camp at Thana and surrendered himself. He then gave up two letters and an address to the troops serving under him, which, he stated, contained the instructions of Raja Lal Singh, and in obedience to which he had acted. Although the sentiments of the Minister towards Gulab Singh were notorious, it was thought hardly conceivable that he should have been foolish enough to put his signature to these treasonable documents; but on the return of the force to Lahore he was brought to trial. The authenticity of both the letters and the address to the

troops was fully proved, and Lal Singh, convicted of deliberate treason, was deposed from the Wazarat and banished to Agra. Shekh Imamudin Khan, though a willing party to the treason, was pardoned, and his Lahore estates which, with his other property in that city had been confiscated, were restored to him.

The generous treatment he received seems to have made a favourable impression upon Imamudin, and in 1848, when almost all were traitors to their Government, he remained faithful, though great efforts were made by the leaders of the rebellion to gain him to their side. In June 1848, with two thousand newly-raised troops, he marched to Multan to co-operate with the force of Lieutenant (the late Sir Herbert) Edwardes. Both he and his men behaved well, and distinguished themselves in several actions with the rebels. When peace was restored he received, as a reward for his services, the title of Nawab and a life cash pension of Rs. 11,600; and his jagir of Rs. 8,400 was confirmed to him. In 1857 he raised, under the orders of Government, two troops of cavalry for service at Delhi. He died in March 1859, aged 40, leaving one son, Shekh Ghulam Mahbub Subhani, born in 1842.

In 1862, at the recommendation of the Panjab Government, the Supreme Government sanctioned Rs. 5,600 of jagirs of Ghulam Mahbub Subhani being upheld in perpetuity; Rs. 2,800 to lapse at his death. He had two sons, who died in their infancy. He lives at Lahore, but takes no part in public affairs.

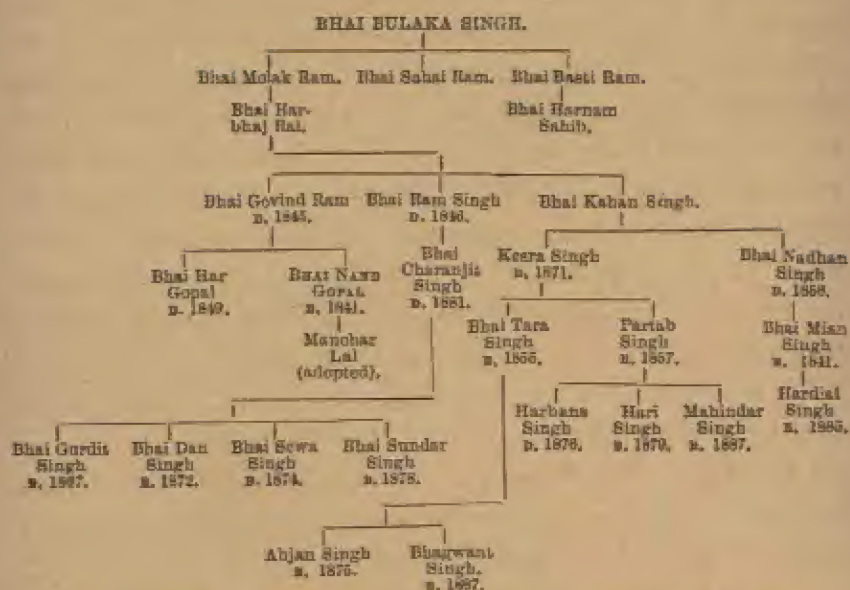
His uncle Shekh Firozdin obtained the Tahsildarship of Muzaffargarh in 1866. Five years later his services were transferred to the Bahawalpur State and he was appointed Collector of Minchinabad. He became a Sessions Judge in a few years, and in 1878 was selected for the high post of Wazir. In recognition of his eminent services in the Bahawalpur State, the Panjab Government conferred upon him



the title of Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioner. This was in 1878. He died two years later. His son Nasirudin is an Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Panjab.

Mention may be made of Shekh Sandhe Khan, second cousin of Nawab Imamudin Khan, under whom he acted as Lieutenant in the Multan war and did excellent service which was duly recognized by Government. Shekh Sandhe Khan was appointed an Honorary Magistrate of Lahore in 1873, and performed the duties of his office for fifteen years. He died in 1888. He received a grant in 1885 of two thousand acres of land in Tahsil Pak Patan, Montgomery, which is now being gradually brought under cultivation.

## BHAJ NAND GOPAL.



In the Sikh polity there is a close union between the Church and the State, and from the time that the Sikh sect grew into a nation, the voice of Fakirs, Babas and Bhaïs has ever been loud in its councils. One of the most influential of the religious families at the Court of Lahore was that of Bhai Charanjit Singh.

The first of the family to acquire the title of Bhai was Bulaka Singh, a follower of Guru Govind Singh. When the Guru retired to Abchalaganagar in the Deccan in 1707, he directed Bulaka to go to Lahore, where he would be married. Bulaka was upwards of fifty, and did not consider himself a good match; but he did as he had been ordered, and at Lahore a Sikh offered him his daughter in marriage, saying that the Guru had instructed him to do so in a dream. Bulaka Singh could not refuse, and three sons were the issue of the marriage, Basti, Sahai and Molak.



Basti Ram was born in 1708, and from an early age devoted himself to the study of medicine. He soon became known for his skill and for the sanctity of his life. He was much consulted by the Bhangi Chiefs, who held Lahore during the latter half of the eighteenth century; and Ranjit Singh, who conquered that city three years before the death of the Bhai, in 1802, had the greatest respect for him. His prophecies were said to be always fulfilled, and his prayers answered; and he was the fortunate possessor of a purse which replenished itself, and which it was impossible to empty. But, without crediting the fables\* related of the Bhai, he undoubtedly had great influence at Lahore, and, like priests in other countries, probably used his knowledge of natural science to increase his religious reputation. Bhai Molak Ram, the youngest brother of Basti Ram, died when a child. Bhai Sahai lived to a great age, but he was a recluse, entirely devoted to religion, and did not marry. He died in 1793.

Bhai Harbhaj Rai used during his father's life-time to come to Court, where he was received by the Maharaja with the greatest respect. He had, like his father, studied medicine, and was reputed to be a very skilful doctor. Basti Ram had never accepted any jagir; but Harbhaj was not so scrupulous, and in 1804 he received the village of Monawan, worth Rs. 400, and in 1805 estates in the vicinity of Lahore to the value of Rs. 5,740. Three years later he received Sundargarh and Rokha; and at the time of his death, in 1824, he was in possession of jagirs to the value of Rs. 9,000 in the Amritsar and Lahore districts. These grants were all in perpetuity, and are still in possession of the family.

\* Bhai Basti Ram lived outside the walls of the city, below the Samam Burj. A large branch of the river Ravi then flowed beneath the walls, and every year did great damage to the city, till the Bhai determined to stop the river, and built his habitation (*dera*) just outside the walls. From that day the waters never invaded the city or passed the *dera* of the Bhai. When he died, his tomb was built of white marble on the site of the *dera*, and the river still respects the spot, though a deep cut to carry off the surplus water, and a considerable change in the course of the Ravi, may account for the safety of the city.

Harbhaj and his brothers had not become Sikhs, and when Kahan Singh took the *pahal* his father was very angry. Ram Singh also allowed his hair to grow, and became a Sikh, though he never took the *pahal* or became a true Singh. Bhai Ram Singh, at Ranjit Singh's request, attended Darbar in 1802, and soon gained great influence over the superstitious Maharaja. His opinion was always asked in questions of difficulty, and during a campaign the tent of the Bhai was pitched next to that of the Maharaja. During the last years of Ranjit Singh's life, Bhai Ram Singh's influence continually increased; and when the Maharaja died, Nao Nahal Singh, who had received the *pahal* from the Bhai, entrusted him with still greater power, for he was himself very averse to conducting the details of business. He was one of the chief conspirators, with Raja Gulab Singh, Dhian Singh and others, in the murder of Sardar Chet Singh, the Minister of Kharak Singh; and it was at his house that the conspirators assembled before proceeding to the palace to commit the murder. Neither Nao Nahal Singh nor the Bhai were popular with the Chiefs. The former compelled all Sardars and Jagirdars to fulfil their service and to keep their contingents in good order, which was most irksome to the men, who during the last years of Ranjit Singh's life had done much as they liked, and had been responsible to no one.

When Nao Nahal Singh died on 5th November 1840, and his mother Mai Chand Kaur claimed the vacant throne, Bhai Ram Singh supported her with all his power. His great rival and enemy, Bhai Gurmukh Singh, as vehemently espoused the cause of Kanwar Sher Singh; but they were almost alone in their enthusiasm, and there were none, with the exception of Raja Dhian Singh, Bhais Ram Singh and Gurmukh Singh, Diwan Sawan Mal, Atar Singh Sindhanwalia and the French Generals, who cared whether the Kanwar or the Mai succeeded to the throne. Bhai Ram Singh was not



altogether averse to a coalition between the two parties, and he foresaw that, without the support of Raja Dhian Singh, the Mai could not possibly stand; and so convinced was he of the incompetency of her supporters, that he does not appear to have seen the triumph of Sher Singh with any great regret.

The new Prince treated Ram Singh with respect, notwithstanding the part the Bhai had taken against him; and at the investiture, on the 27th January 1841, he was allowed a chair, the only others who were permitted this honour being his brother Govind Ram, Bhai Gurmukh Singh, Babas Bikrama Singh and Kaban Singh, and the Prince Partab Singh. The Maharaja even began to consult Ram Singh; and Raja Dhian Singh, fearing that he might regain his influence, tried to make the Bhai proceed to Multan on the pretext of recovering arrears of revenue from Diwan Sawan Mal. This project the Bhai vehemently opposed. He did not wish to be banished from Court; he was a friend of Sawan Mal; and his religious character should have disqualified him from the duties to which he had been nominated by the Minister.

Both Bhai Ram Singh and his brother Bhai Govind Ram were thoroughly discontented. Although treated with consideration, they were allowed no share of power, and saw their enemy Bhai Gurmukh Singh wealthy and influential. But their turn at length came. Sher Singh and his Minister fell by the hands of the Sindhanwalias, and Bhai Gurmukh Singh, who had been the constant opponent of Raja Dhian Singh, was imprisoned and murdered.

After the death of Raja Hira Singh, Bhai Ram Singh recovered much of his influence with the army. He had ever been associated with Fakir Azizudin in his English policy; these two were almost the only men in Lahore who understood the relations of that State to the British Government

under the Treaty of 1809, and they were most desirous of keeping on good terms with it. It was on this account that, in March 1845, the Bhai warmly supported Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu as a candidate for the Wazirship; for he knew that he was the only man who could in any way restrain the army, and whose vast private means could avert the bankruptcy of the State. The intentions of the Bhai towards the British Government were good; and early in May 1845 he informed Major Broadfoot, Agent of the Governor General, that Sardar Jawahir Singh intended, for his own safety, to incite the Sikh army to an invasion of British territory.

Jawahir Singh, though by no means without intellect, was drunken and debauched; and even in public Darbars he was often seen under the influence of brandy; and he would then abuse Ram Singh in the most indecent terms, though in the worst of times the sanctity of the Bhai's character had saved him from insult. On the 12th September 1845, the Bhai boldly remonstrated in open Darbar against the conduct of the Wazir towards the British Government. He asserted that the conduct of the English authorities had been distinguished by moderation and forbearance, and that the Darbar was entirely in the wrong in the dispute. Jawahir Singh is believed to have promised to retrace his steps, and to write an apology to the British Agent; but on that very night news came of the murder of Prince Peshora Singh, perpetrated by his orders, and he knew that an English war could alone preserve his power. Bhai Ram Singh had also heard the fatal news, and had reported it to the troops, and the party hostile to the Minister gained strength every hour. The murder of the obnoxious Minister and the Satlaj Campaign followed. To the last Bhai Ram Singh opposed that insane war, but in vain. To Raja Lal Singh he said: "Beware what you do, and do not march to Hariki with the



troops. The English have always behaved as friends and well-wishers, and have never interfered in the affairs of the Khalsa." Raja Lal Singh answered: "Bhai Sahib, what can I do? the soldiers have got me by the throat." However, he took the Bhai's advice as far as he could, and, like a coward as he was, made the other Generals go on before him to the scene of danger. After Sobraon, Bhai Ram Singh was sent with Raja Gulab Singh and Diwan Dina Nath to meet the Governor General at Lahiani, on the road to Lahore, to try and obtain favourable terms.

After the Treaty of the 9th March 1846, Bhai Ram Singh remained one of the Council; and although, on account of bad health, he was unable to attend the Darbar very regularly, his opinion was always taken before any important measure was adopted. He was opposed generally to Raja Lal Singh, the Minister, and took the part of Mulraj in the dispute regarding the Governorship of Multan. It was by his advice that Raja Lal Singh called upon all the Sardars to sign a *razinama*, a deed expressive of their contentment under the existing Government, though it was notorious that the majority was opposed to it.

Bhai Ram Singh died in November 1846, and was succeeded in the Council by his nephew Bhai Nadhan Singh, son of Bhai Kahan Singh, who had died in 1837. Bhai Govind Ram did not much meddle with politics after the death of Ranjit Singh. He was for some years a great invalid, and died in 1845.

Nadhan Singh was a very silent Member of the Darbar. On the 16th December 1846 he was appointed a Member of the Council of Regency, which office he held till the annexation of the Panjab. In 1848 the Zamindars of Kotpindi Das, one of the jagirs of the Bhai family, failed to give supplies to the British army when marching through, and the village was consequently confiscated, but was sub-

sequently released on payment of a fine of Rs. 800. On annexation, however, it was resumed with other personal grants of Ram Singh.

The jagirs of the family amounted at annexation to Rs. 49,000. Of these, jagirs to the value of Rs. 22,447 were released; Rs. 9,729 in perpetuity, in three equal shares, to the descendants of the three sons of Harbhaj Rai; and Rs. 12,718 for the lives of Nadhan Singh, Kesra Singh, Charanjit Singh and Nand Gopal. A grant of Rs. 3,000 by Maharaja Ranjit Singh for the support of the Sikh Temple at Taran Taran was also released during good behaviour; and the administration is in the hands of the three families, who each select one representative. Bhai Nadhan Singh's Council allowance of Rs. 6,000 was also continued for life. He died in 1856.

Bhai Charanjit Singh died in 1881 leaving four sons, whose names are given in the pedigree table. He was a good scholar in English, Persian, Sanscrit and Gurmukhi, and interested himself in educational matters. He received a khilat with a Sanad in recognition of his efforts in behalf of female education, more especially in connection with the founding of the Istri Siksha Sabha; and in 1878 he was presented in Darbar with a copy of Dr. Trumpp's translation of the *Adi Garanth* as a tribute to his researches in his own language. In 1879 he was appointed an Honorary Magistrate of Lahore. On his death, his jagir yielding Rs. 4,000 per annum was resumed, his four sons receiving in lieu a grant in perpetuity of Rs. 3,133 per annum. They were all minors when the father died, and were placed in charge of Raja Harbans Singh. The eldest son, Bhai Gurdit Singh, is now of age and looks after the property. The second son, Bhai Dan Singh married in 1884 a daughter of Sardar Sahai Singh, in the service of the Maharaja of Patiala; and the third, Bhai Sewa Singh, married in the same year the daughter of another



Patiala official, Sardar Jawala Singh, Inspector-General of Police. Sewa Singh is reading in the Aitchison College. Dan Singh is reading for the University Entrance Examination.

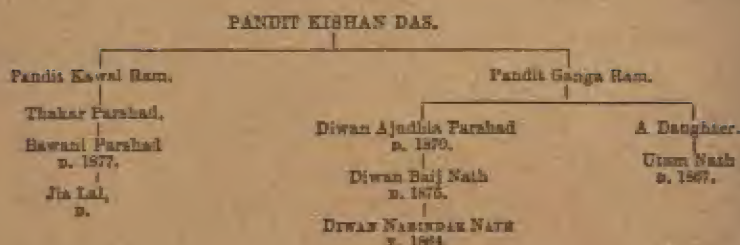
Bhai Mian Singh is an Honorary Magistrate and a Member of the Municipal Committee of Lahore. His jagir is valued at Rs. 1,625 per annum.

Bhai Kesra Singh died in March 1871. He interested himself in connection with the Siksha Sabha, the Anjuman-i-Panjab and other public Societies, and was held in esteem by the local authorities. He left two sons, who now jointly hold a jagir of Rs. 1,625 per annum in the Lahore and Amritsar districts. The elder, Bhai Tara Singh, a Tahsildar at Jalandhar, has been recently recommended for an Extra Assistant Commissionership. The brothers are joint owners of about seventy acres of land in different villages of the Lahore Tahsil.

The present head of the family, Bhai Nand Gopal, lives at Lahore. He is a Viceregal Darbari. The family are of the Arora caste, *Got* Gauri.

The other Darbaris in the family are Bhais Mian Singh, Gurdit Singh and Tara Singh.

## DIWAN NARINDAR NATH.



The family of Diwan Ajudhia Parshad is of the Brahman caste, and originally came from Kashmir. It claims to belong to the family known as Swaman Gotam, descended from the famous *rikhi* or sage, Gotama, who was born about 620 B. C. on the lower Ganges. It is also known as Chachbali, from the mohala, or district, in Kashmir, which was its residence.

The Mahomedan religion was established in Kashmir in the year 1326 by Shamshudin Shah. For nearly a hundred years no severe measures were taken against the Hindus; but when Sakandar, named *Bhut-shikan* or the Iconoclast, became King, the Brahman Pandits had much difficulty in preserving their religion and their lives. The ancestors of Ajudhia Parshad studied Persian as a sort of compromise, and contrived to live in tolerable security till the conquest of Kashmir by Ahmad Shah Abdali in 1752. The Hindus were now exposed to constant persecution, and many emigrated to Hindustan and the Panjab. Among the emigrants was Pandit Kishan Das, grandfather of Ajudhia Parshad. He was a good scholar, and without difficulty obtained a situation under the Dehli Emperors, which he held till his death.

His son Ganga Ram, who was born at Rampur near Benares, entered the service of the Maharaja of Gwalior, and was placed with Colonel Louis Burquien, one of the French officers in Sindia's service, under General Perron. Here the



young man distinguished himself by his honesty and ability, and became entrusted with many important political affairs. When the Mahrattas, towards the close of the last century, overran Central India, Malwa, and the Dehli territories, Ganga Ram was employed under Colonel Burquien in collecting tribute and in drawing up treaties with subject or allied States. After the defeat of Burquien at Patparganj on the Jamna by Lord Lake in September 1803, Ganga Ram retired to Dehli, where he lived for the ten succeeding years. He was of great assistance to General Ochterlony when, in 1809, that officer was arranging the relations between the Cis-Satlaj States and the British Government, from his knowledge of their past political history, their treaties and their relations with other States.

In March 1813 Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who had heard Ganga Ram spoken of as a man of ability, invited him to Lahore on the recommendation of Bhai Lal Singh and Sardar Himat Singh Jalawasia. He accepted the invitation, and, taking with him a vessel of Ganges water for presentation to the Maharaja, was well received at Lahore, where he was placed at the head of the Military office and made Keeper of the Seal. He was made one of the Paymasters-in-Chief of the Irregular forces, Bhawani Das being the head of the department, and rose rapidly in the favour of the Maharaja, who saw the great improvements made in the system of Military account. Ganga Ram brought from Hindustan numbers of his relatives and friends, for whom he obtained good places about the Court. Most of them, however, were not mere adventurers, but men of business and literary attainment. Among them may be noticed Raja Dina Nath; Pandit Daya Ram, who administered successively the Ramgarhia country and Jhang; Pandit Hari Ram, father of Shankar Nath, Honorary Magistrate of Lahore; Pandit Gopi Nath, Pandit Ram Kishan, Pandit Ganga Bishan and Pandit Lachman Parshad.

Diwan Ganga Ram, Lachman Parshad's father, and Bakht Mal had married three sisters. Ganga Ram had no son born to him, so he adopted his wife's nephew Ajudhia Parshad, brother of Lachman Parshad; Dina Nath (afterwards Raja) was son of Bakht Mal, and consequently first cousin of Ajudhia Parshad. Ganga Ram had, later, a daughter by a second wife, whose son, Utam Nath, died childless at Lahore in 1867.

Thus, by his personal ability and by the family interest which he established in Lahore, Ganga Ram obtained considerable power, and the administration of the country about Gujrat was in 1821 entrusted to him. In this district, which he held two years, he received a grant of Khemi, Kalaichpur and other villages in the Kariali Naka. He first organized the Abkari system, which was afterwards so much improved by Misar Ralia Ram.

Diwan Ganga Ram died in 1826. He was succeeded as Keeper of the Seal and in the Military office of Account by Dina Nath, whom he had brought up most carefully, and whose splendid abilities soon made him distinguished in the political world.

Ajudhia Parshad (or Ajudhia Nath) had been summoned to Lahore by his father in 1814. He was then fifteen years of age, but he was not suffered to enter, at once, the Government service. For two years he continued his studies, and was then sent to his native country, Kashmir, where he was placed in the Military office on a salary of Rs. 1,000 per annum. Six months later he was recalled to Lahore. In 1819 Generals Ventura and Allard arrived in the Panjab from Europe, by way of Persia and Khorasan, and entered the Maharaja's service. They received command of the *Fauj Khas*, or special brigade, the first in rank in the Sikh army; and Ajudhia was placed under them as Paymaster of the troops and as the medium of communication between the Commanding officers



and the Maharaja. The Fauj Khas was at one time raised to five battalions of infantry and three cavalry regiments; but at the request of General Ventura it was again reduced to four infantry battalions and two regiments of cavalry.

On the death of his father, the Maharaja directed Ajudhia to assume charge of the Accounts office for Regular troops and artillery; but he was on the best of terms with the French Generals, and begged to be allowed to keep his own appointment. The vacant post was accordingly given to Tej Singh. Ajudhia Parshad received the title of Diwan, and the village of Nain Sukh was continued to him from his father's jagir. He continued to serve with the Fauj Khas, and when General Ventura was absent on leave he commanded the whole force. So ably did he do this, that General Ventura wrote of him in these terms: "On the two occasions that I have been absent on leave in France, Ajudhia Parshad has held the command of the Life Guards of the Maharaja. I have never had cause to repent appointing him my Deputy, for on my return from France I have found the troops in as good a condition as if I had been present myself." In 1831 he was sent to the frontier of the Panjab to meet Lieutenant Burnes, who was on his way from Bombay, by way of Sind, with a present of a team of cart horses, a stallion and four mares, and a carriage, for Maharaja Ranjit Singh, from the King of England. Ajudhia Parshad met the mission a little way below Multan, and remained attached to it till its arrival in Lahore on the 17th of July.

At the time of the Maharaja's death, Ajudhia Parshad was with the brigade at Peshawar, where it had been stationed for two years, but was now summoned to Lahore by Maharaja Kharak Singh. The Diwan was, with Sardar Lahna Singh Majithia, at the close of 1839, directed to accompany the army of the Indus, under Sir John Keane, from Atock to Firozpur, which was reached on the 31st of December 1839; and his

attention and anxiety to meet the wishes of the General were warmly acknowledged by that officer.

In April and May 1840, the brigade, with General Ventura and Ajudhia Parshad, was sent against Kahan Singh Bedi, who had murdered his nephew, seized his fort of Malsian in the Jalandhar Doab, and imprisoned his family. Nao Nahal Singh did not much care for the sanctity of a Bedi and, to the indignation of many, sent the troops against his fort of Dakhni, which they captured. Eventually this was given up to him again, on his restoring Malsian to his nephew's family and paying a fine of Rs. 20,000 to the State.

Later in the year the brigade was sent against the Mandi Chief, who had omitted to pay in his tribute since the death of Ranjit Singh, or to acknowledge in any way the new Maharaja. Mandi was covered with little forts, said to be one hundred and twenty-three in number, besides the strong fort of Kamlagarh; but the Raja was frightened by the force sent against him and gave in his submission, and was directed to proceed to Lahore. The town of Mandi was occupied, and most of the forts dismantled. Kamlagarh, however, held out, and while its siege was in progress news arrived of the death of Maharaja Kharak Singh and Kanwar Nao Nahal Singh. This news in some measure raised the courage of the garrison; but the siege was vigorously pressed, and, at length, the fort surrendered on the 29th November, and the General, leaving a Sikh garrison in it, marched to repress disturbances which had broken out in Kulu. Sardar Ajit Singh Sindhanwalia, who had been sent to Mandi, had left for Lahore before the capture of Kamlagarh. General Ventura left for Lahore in the beginning of January, recalled by Raja Dhian Singh, who wished for his support to the claims of Prince Sher Singh; and Ajudhia Parshad was left in charge of the brigade. Reinforcements had been despatched from Lahore to Kulu, and when these arrived the Fauj Khas heard that the



troops in Lahore had received large gratuities from Sher Singh with four months' pay. Only two months' pay had been brought for them; so they rose in mutiny, seized the treasure in their camp and killed several of their officers. Ajudhia Parshad, who had considerable influence with the men, restored order and promised to obtain for the men whatever the Lahore troops had received.

General Ventura left the Panjab on leave in March 1840 and, on the arrival of the brigade at Lahore, Ajudhia Parshad retained the command, though it was placed nominally under the little Prince Partab Singh. The first business in which it was engaged was against Jawala Singh,\* the agent of the Maharaja. This man had hoped to be Wazir when his master became King; and the office had been promised to him by Sher Singh. Raja Dhian Singh had, however, no intention of vacating the post; to the Maharaja he insinuated suspicions of Jawala Singh's loyalty; and he warned Jawala Singh of the Maharaja's intentions against him, till, at last, the wretched man was driven into treason and, being encamped with five thousand Irregulars at the Dera Charyari, near Shalabagh, refused to obey the Maharaja's order to come in to Lahore. Sher Singh moved out against him, and Ajudhia Parshad, with the Fauj Khas and supported by artillery, was directed to go in advance. Seeing the approach of this formidable brigade, Jawala Singh surrendered,† and he afterwards died in the prison in the fort of Shekhopura from ill-treatment and starvation, one of Raja Dhian Singh's many victims.

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\* Jawala Singh, though having no designs against Sher Singh, had plotted against the Minister. He had been sent to resume the Sindhanwalia jagira, and, returning from that expedition with the Sindhanwalia Chiefs, they conspired together to eject Dhian Singh from the Ministry; and on the way to Lahore they visited the sacred shrines at Amritsar, where they swore to persevere till their design was accomplished. Dhian Singh must have heard of this confederacy, and he never forgot to revenge himself on a rival.

† It is a remarkable proof of the lawlessness and power of the army at this time that the very Charyari Horse and Akalis, who had on the 1st of May supported Jawala Singh in mutiny and treason, on the 2nd demanded and obtained a donation of Rs. 30,000 from Maharaja Sher Singh for not having compelled Jawala Singh to fight against him.

The Maharaja paid to the Fauj Khas the gratuity promised to them in Kulu by Ajudhia Parshad, and to the Diwan himself he made valuable presents. The Raja of Mandi was allowed to return to his hills, taking with him the image of the goddess Davi, in solid silver, of great value and sanctity, which the Sikh soldiers had taken from Kamla-garh.

General Ventura returned from Europe in 1840 and took command of the brigade. He, after Sher Singh's assassination, was sent secretly by Raja Hira Singh, the Minister, to Ludhiana to try and strengthen the English alliance by negotiation with Colonel Richmond, the British Resident; but at the end of 1843, disgusted with the insubordination of the troops, and clearly foreseeing the troubles coming on the country, he finally left the Panjab, where he had served for upwards of twenty-four years. Diwan Ajudhia Parshad now took command of the brigade, and held it till the close of the Satlaj Campaign. It was composed in 1845, before the war, of 3,176 Regular infantry, 1,667 Regular cavalry, and 855 artillerymen. Total 5,698 men and 34 guns. The infantry force included the Khas battalion, strength 820 men; a Gurkha battalion, 707 men; Dewa Singh's battalion, 839 men; and Sham Singh's battalion, 810 men. The cavalry force was composed of a Grenadier regiment, strength 730 men; a Dragoon regiment, 750 men; and a troop of orderly Khas, 187 men. The artillery was the corps known as that of Ilahi Baksh, and was commanded by General Ilahi Baksh, the best artillery officer in the Sikh army. The pay of the whole brigade was Rs. 96,067 per mensem.

The composition of the other brigades may be in a great measure seen from this statement regarding the crack brigade of the Sikh army. A great change had taken place since the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. His strong hand kept



down mutiny and complaint, though even he was once compelled to take refuge in Govindgarh from the fury of his Gurkha regiment which could not obtain its arrears of pay; but his successors, fearing for their lives and power, were compelled to increase the numbers and the pay of the army, till it at length became an insupportable burthen to the State and a standing menace to other powers.

At the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death, the Regular army, infantry, cavalry and artillery, was composed of 29,168 men, with 192 guns, at a monthly cost of Rs. 3,82,088. Under Maharaja Sher Sing, the Regular army was composed of 50,065 men, with 232 guns, at a monthly cost of Rs. 5,48,603. Under Raja Hira Singh the Regular army consisted of 50,805 men, with 282 guns, at a monthly cost of Rs. 6,82,984. Under Sardar Jawahir Singh, the Regular army consisted of 72,370 men, with 381 guns, at a monthly cost of Rs. 8,52,696. The increase in the number of guns under Sardar Jawahir Singh was in a great measure nominal. Few new guns were cast, but many old ones were taken out of forts, furbished up, and placed on field carriages. The Irregular cavalry does not appear to have increased in the same proportion as the Regular army. At the commencement of hostilities its numbers were 16,292. When the Satlaj War of 1845 broke out, the Sikh army throughout the whole Panjab was thus composed:—

Regular Infantry	...	...	...	...	53,756
Regular Cavalry	...	...	...	...	6,235
Irregular Cavalry	...	...	...	...	16,292
Artillery	...	...	...	...	10,968
Camel Swivels	...	...	...	...	584
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	827

Guns, Field, 381; Garrison, 104; Camel Swivels, 308.

The Irregular levies and Jagirdari contingents of horse, not included in the above, cannot be accurately determined, but they may be fairly estimated at 30,000 men.

During the troubled administration of Raja Hira Singh, the brigade of Ajudhia Parshad, which had been accustomed to discipline under the skilful Ventura, did not become so completely mutinous and disorganised as the rest of the army. When Hira Singh fled from Lahore, and was pursued by Sardar Jawahir Singh and the Sikh army, the Fauj Khas remained on the plain below the citadel to guard the person of the young Maharaja. Jawahir Singh added Rs. 3,000 per mensem to Ajudhia Parshad's pay, and gave him the villages of Mouzas Khan, Gang, Shadian, Muradi and Kathianwala, in the Hafizabad district.

After the murder Sardar Jawahir Singh, Tej Singh, who was hated by the army, was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Regular forces, and Raja Lal Singh of the Irregular; and when the Fauj Khas was ordered to Peshawar it distinctly refused to obey. The Satlaj Campaign followed. At its close, Diwan Ajudhia Parshad tendered his resignation, which was accepted, and he left the corps with which he had served for twenty-six years.

After the Treaty of the 16th March 1856, making over the hill country between the Ravi and the Indus to Maharaja Gulab Singh, Ajudhia Parshad was appointed Commissioner, in conjunction with Captain Abbott, to lay down the boundary line of the Lahore and Jamu territories. This work, which was by no means an easy one, occupied two years, and it was not till May 1848 that the Diwan returned to Lahore. During all this time his conduct had given the greatest satisfaction to the authorities; and without in any way sacrificing the interests of his own Government, he had shown the greatest courtesy and attention to Captain Abbott, the British representative. On November 26th, 1847, he had received the honorary title of *Mumtaz ud daulah* (Eminent in the State), besides substantial addition to his pay. At annexation he was in possession of Rs. 5,000 per



annum cash allowance, besides the villages of Nainsukh, Balu Salu, Chogian, Kot Nao, Khanpur, Khatianwala, Shadman, Gang and Muradi, worth Rs. 19,000 per annum. In April 1849, immediately after the annexation of the Panjab, the Diwan was appointed to take charge of the young Maharaja Dalip Singh in conjunction with Dr. Login, and in 1849 he accompanied the Prince to Fatahgarh, where he remained in attendance upon him until September 1851. He then, the Maharaja being about to leave for England, returned to the Panjab and gave up public life. Dr. Login has borne the highest testimony to the Diwan's upright and honourable conduct while with the Maharaja at Fatahgarh.

The jagirs of the Diwan had lapsed to Government at annexation; but he was granted a pension of Rs. 7,500, and the Supreme Government in 1852 sanctioned Rs. 1,000 of this pension being upheld in perpetuity.

In 1862 the Diwan was appointed an Honorary Magistrate of the city of Lahore. He carried out the duties of his office in an admirable manner, preserving his good name for justice and impartiality up to the day of his death. In January 1864 the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Robert Montgomery, conferred upon him proprietary right in the Hingarwal Rakh, Lahore District, embracing an area of twelve hundred acres, in recognition of his past services. The grant was subject to a nazarana payment of twelve hundred rupees and was assessed at an annual rental of Rs. 2,400. It bears the name of Ajudhiapur in memory of the original grantee. Khilats were at the same time bestowed upon the Diwan and his son Baij Nath. This latter was a gentleman of education and ability. He commenced training for official life in the office of Major Abbot, Deputy Commissioner of Hazara, and was made a Tahsildar in 1858, and four years later was brought to Lahore as an Extra

Assistant Commissioner. At his father's request he resigned the service in 1866 and took up his abode permanently at Lahore, where he exercised magisterial powers under the title of Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioner.

Diwan Ajudhia Parshad died in 1870. Of his life pension of Rs. 6,500, one half was continued to Diwan Baij Nath. The estate was saddled with a debt of Rs. 24,000, which Baij Nath rapidly increased to Rs. 40,000. In 1874 the Diwan's services were placed at the disposal of the Kapurthala State for employment as Member of a Council appointed to carry on the administration owing to the continued illness of the Raja Kharak Singh. His services were dispensed with early in 1875, affairs at Kapurthala having necessitated the appointment of an English official in supercession of the Council. The Diwan proceeded thence on a pilgrimage to Kangra, and was on his way back to Lahore when he was seized with cholera, and died after a few days' illness on the 18th August 1875.

Diwan Baij Nath married three times. His second wife bore him his only son, Narindar Nath, born in 1864. He is the present head of the family. There were two daughters (married in 1887) by the third wife whom he married in 1871. The management of the minor's estate passed into the hands of the District Court of Wards at Lahore. A loan of Rs. 20,000 was granted by Government to meet the claims of the more pressing creditors. To Narindar Nath was sanctioned a life pension of Rs. 1,625 per annum over and above the income from Ajudhiapur, already referred to. By careful management the father's liabilities have been cleared off, and the estate is now free.

Narindar Nath married in 1879 the daughter of Pandit Bishambar Nath Kaul, now an Assistant Traffic Manager on the North-Western Railway. He obtained the degree of Master of Arts in 1886, and in the following year was nomi-



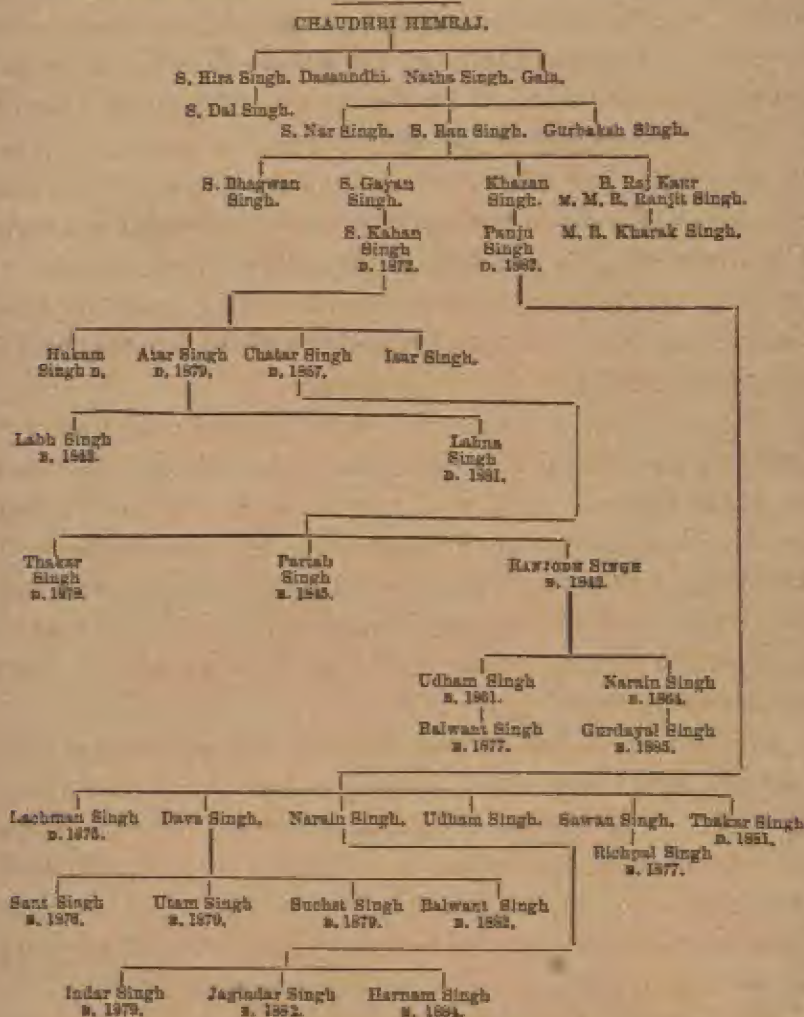
nated a Fellow of the Panjab University. In the beginning of 1888 he was selected for an Assistant Commissionership in the Panjab under the Statutory Civil Service Rules. He has been posted to the Gurdaspur district.

Pandit Narindar Nath sets down his income at about sixteen thousand rupees per annum, made up of the jagir revenue of eight villages and the land rents of Mouzas Ajudhia-pur and Amirpur in the Lahore Tahsil, together with the pension already mentioned and his salary as Assistant Commissioner.

Pandit Bhawani Parshad, grandson of Pandit Kawal Ram, died childless in 1877.

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## SARDAR RANJODH SINGH NAKAI, OF BAHRWAL.



About the year 1595 the Sikh Guru Arjan, travelling with a few followers in the Lahore district, reached the little town of Bahrwal, which had been founded some years before by a man of the Arora caste, named Bahr. He was not received with hospitality, and passed on to the neighbouring village of Jambar, where, tired and foot-sore, he begged for



the loan of a *charpai* (native bedstead), and, lying down in the shade of a tree, went to sleep. By this time Hemraj, a Sindhu Jat, Chaudhri or headman of Bahrwal, who was absent when the Guru passed through his village, heard of what had occurred and, ashamed of his townsmen's inhospitality, set off to Jambar to try and induce the holy man to return. On his arrival at the village he found the Guru asleep. What was to be done? He dared not wake the saint, for he was uncertain of his temper, nor could he suffer him to remain longer at Jambar; so, being a man of resource and some physical strength, he lifted the charpai and the Guru together on his head and carried him away to Bahrwal.

When Arjan woke he was much pleased with Hemraj's attention, and called for water to drink. He was told that the water of their only well was brackish. The Guru then directed Hemraj to throw some sweet cakes down the well. This being done, the water immediately became sweet and pure. The Guru also blessed Hemraj, and prophesied that he would have a son, by name Hira Singh, who would be a great and powerful Chief.

So runs the legend, believed to this day at Bahrwal; for is not the water of the well, known as Budhewala, still sweet and clear? The legend would have been told with more propriety of Alam the father, or of Mahmana the grandfather of Hemraj; for Hira Singh, who was certainly the first man of note in the family, was not born till nearly a hundred years after the death of Guru Arjan, which took place in 1606.

Hira Singh, at the time that the Sikhs grew powerful, about the middle of the last century, took possession of the Naka country lying between Lahore and Gogaira, and which has given its name to the family of Hira Singh and to the Misal which he commanded. He took Chunian from the Afghans, and joined the Kanhyas and Bhangis in their attacks upon the falling Moghal power.

When Sardar Hira Singh was killed fighting with Shekh Shuja Chisti of Pak Pattan, his son Dal Singh was a minor, and his nephew Nar Singh succeeded to the command of the Misal. Nar Singh was killed in a fight at Kot Kamalia in 1768, and his son Ram Singh succeeded him. Under this Chief the Misal rose to some strength and importance. It was never powerful compared with some of the other Sikh confederacies; but it could bring into the field nearly two thousand horsemen, with camel swivels and a few guns. The Jats of the Naka country are strong and bold, and the little Misal did good battle with the Afghans and other neighbours, till at last a tract of country worth nine lakhs of rupees was in the hands of Sardar Ran Singh and his Misaldars (feudal retainers). They held Chunian, part of the Kasur, Sharakpur and Gogaira parganas, and at one time Kot Kamalia, the head-quarters of the Kharal tribe.

The Chief of Sayadwala, Kamar Singh, was the rival of Ran Singh, and they fought with varying success for some years, till at length Ran Singh obtained a decided advantage and took possession of Sayadwala. Sardar Ran Singh died in 1781, and his eldest son Bhagwan Singh, who succeeded to the command of the Misal, was not able to hold the territory his father had acquired. Sayadwala was recovered by Wazir Singh, brother of Kamar Singh, who also took some of the Nakai villages, but these he eventually gave up. Bhagwan Singh now perceived that, unless he made powerful friends, he would probably lose his territory altogether, so he betrothed his sister Nakayan, generally known as Raj Kauran, to Ranjit Singh, son of Mahan Singh Sukarchakia, who was then one of the most powerful Chiefs in the Panjab. Wazir Singh tried hard to break off this match, which boded no good to him, but was unable to do so. Shortly after this, in 1785, Mahan Singh summoned both Bhagwan Singh and Wazir Singh to Amritsar to aid



him in his struggle with Jai Singh Kanhya. The rival Chiefs went accordingly; but when Jai Singh was defeated they soon began to quarrel, for Mahan Singh treated Wazir Singh with more consideration than Bhagwan Singh, which roused the jealousy of the latter. Mahan Singh, with some difficulty, brought about a reconciliation; but the peace was not of long duration, and the quarrel broke out with greater violence than ever, and in the fight which ensued Bhagwan Singh was slain. His brother Gayan Singh succeeded him in 1789. The old enemy of their family, Wazir Singh, was murdered soon after by Dal Singh, son of Sardar Hira Singh, who took refuge at Bahrwal; but he was followed and assassinated by a servant of Wazir Singh who had resolved to avenge his master's death. Mahan Singh died in 1792, and in 1798 Gayan Singh married his sister to Ranjit Singh, to whom she had been some time betrothed. In 1802 a son, the issue of this marriage, was born, who afterwards ascended the throne as Maharaja Kharak Singh. The Nakai family did not find the alliance with Ranjit Singh productive of much advantage. That ambitious Chief hungered after his kinsman's possessions, and tried hard to induce Sardar Kahan Singh, who became the head of the family on the death of Gayan Singh in 1807, to come and reside at Court. This the Sardar steadily declined to do; and in 1810 the Maharaja seized all the possessions of the family without any resistance on their part, for resistance was unavailing. He gave Kahan Singh estates in the neighbourhood of Bahrwal of the value of Rs. 15,000, and to Khazan Singh he also gave a jagir at Nankot.

Sardar Kahan Singh in 1860 was made a Jagirdar Magistrate. He always lived at Bahrwal, a little town far away from any high-road, and mixed very little in politics since the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. In 1848 his troops, and his second son Atar Singh, who were with the army at

Multan, joined the rebels; but Kahan Singh, who was then an old man, was not suspected of being a party to his son's disaffection. He enjoyed a life pension of Rs. 3,840, in addition to his jagir revenue of Rs. 11,980. His eldest son, Chatar Singh, who remained faithful, died in 1857 leaving three sons and two daughters.

Kahan Singh died in 1872. The Chiefship of the family has passed down to his grandson Sardar Ranjodh Singh, eldest son of the late Sardar Chatar Singh, a land-owner to the extent of over 1,400 ghumaos in various villages in the Lahore and Montgomery districts. Of the jagir of twelve thousand rupees held by Kahan Singh, Rs. 7,040 have been continued to the family in the following shares:—

	Rs.
To Ranjodh Singh, in perpetuity ... ..	2,000
Sardar Atar Singh, for life ... ..	240
" Ishar Singh, " ... ..	1,200
Thakar Singh, Partab Singh, and Lahna Singh, each ... ..	600
The widow of Sardar Kahan Singh ... ..	600

Of the above, the allowances of the widow, and of Atar Singh, Thakar Singh and Lahna Singh have since lapsed by the demise of the grantees.

Sardar Ranjodh Singh's second son Narain Singh is employed in the Deputy Commissioner's office, Lahore. He is a candidate for a Naib-Tahsildarship.

Sardar Labh Singh is a Zaildar at Bahrwal, owning over two thousand ghumaos of land. Both Sardar Lahna Singh and Ishar Singh (*alias* Abdul Aziz) became Mahomedans. The latter lives with his cousin Partab Singh at Gajja, a village on the Ravi, where the family owns land, about six miles from Ranjodh Singh's village of Bahrwal. Besides his pension he enjoys the proprietary dues of over four thousand ghumaos of land.

Sardar Sawan Singh (son of Panju Singh) is a Deputy Inspector of Police in the Lahore district.



## THE LATE NAWAB ABDUL MAJID KHAN SADOZAI, C.S.I.



his father as Chief of the Habibzai tribe; but was a man of such bravery and ability that he was selected by the Abdali tribes, living between Kandahar and Hirat, to be their leader. This was in 1598.

Shadi Khan, the Governor of the Emperor Akbar at Kandahar, was hostile to Sado Khan, so he went over to the interests of Shah Abbas, King of Persia, who had lost Kandahar in 1594 and was intriguing for its recovery. This he effected in 1621, after Akbar's death, with the assistance of the Abdalis. Sado Khan died in 1626 leaving five sons, from whom have descended several well-known Afghan tribes. The descendants of Sado Khan are known as Sadozai; \* and one branch of the family, to which Ahmad Shah,† Timur Shah, Zaman Shah and Shah Shuja belonged, reigned for many years in Kabul.

Khizar Khan, who succeeded his father in the Chiefship, was of a mild disposition, unsuited to rule over a wild Afghan tribe. His authority was set at defiance; and at length, seeing that he could not compel obedience to his orders, he made over to his brother Mahdud Khan, who was of a determined character and held the Abdalis in terror. Khizar Khan died in 1626, and Mahdud Khan held rule for seventeen years after his death. He resided at Safa, some fifty miles north-east of Kandahar, where Ali Mardan Khan was Governor; and with this able and enlightened man Mahdud Khan always maintained friendship. In 1637 Ali Mardan Khan, who was no favourite of his master the Shah of Persia, gave up Kandahar to Mahomed Said Khan, the Governor of Kabul, for the

\* A clan of the Niazai tribe, called Sadozai, inhabits the village of Doda on the Indus. They are not, however, connected with the family of Sado Khan.

† Ahmad Shah only adopted the name of Durani for his tribe in 1747. It had formerly been always called Abdali. Sharif Din had five sons, according to Afghan tradition, Usman, Drek, Tarin, Hawawak, and Abdul. The last received his name from a saint, Khwaja Abdul Ahmad, whom he had for some time served as a disciple.



Emperor Shah Jahan, and retired to Dehli, where he was received with great honour. Mahdud Khan was assassinated in a domestic brawl six years later. Shah Hasain Khan succeeded him, but was opposed by Khudadad Khan, who claimed the Chiefship in right of his father Khizar Khan. A battle was fought between the cousins near Safa, in which Hasain Khan was defeated; but he fled to Kandahar and, being aided by its Governor, Khas Khan, again took the field with a considerable force. Khudadad Khan, unable to oppose him, fled to Ispahan, where he was well received by Shah Abbas II.; and he accompanied that monarch in 1648 against Kandahar, which was taken before the army of Shah Jahan could arrive for its defence. The Shah then retired to Hirat, leaving Mahrab Khan Kazalbash Governor of Kandahar, and Khudadad Khan in command of the country without the walls.

The enemy of Hasain Khan was now in power; and it was with great joy that the latter saw, some months after the capture of the city, the Indian army under Aurangzeb and Said-ula approach. He joined the invaders; but Kandahar was so well and bravely defended by the Persian garrison, that at the beginning of the cold weather of 1649 Aurangzeb was compelled to raise the siege and retire to Hindustan. With him went Shah Hasain Khan and all his family, for they could no longer remain in Afghanistan with safety.

Shah Hasain first obtained the pargana of Sialkot in jagir, and soon afterwards, in exchange for it, Rangpur, on the right bank of the Chanab, ten miles below the junction of that river with the Ravi. In 1653 he accompanied Prince Dara Shiko, eldest son of Shan Jahan, on his unsuccessful expedition against Kandahar, the last attempt on that city made by the Moghals. The next year he accompanied Prince Aurangzeb to the Deccan, of which he was Viceroy; but in

1655 he returned to Dehli and, through the interest of Ali Mardan Khan, obtained permission to raise seven hundred horse, and his brother two hundred.

When Aurangzeb ascended the throne in 1658, Hasain Khan received an accession to his jagir ; but his hot temper soon after brought him into disgrace. On one unlucky day the Emperor was looking at some horses which had been presented to him, and, pointing to one of them, he asked Hasain Khan its breed. The Chief hesitated ; and a fine looking Pathan, who stood by, answered the question. " Slave," said Hasain Khan in a fury, " when the Emperor addresses me, why do you speak ?" " Slaves are known by their mean appearance," was the reply. Hasain Khan, who was short in stature and very swarthy in complexion, was so much irritated at this that he drew his dagger and stabbed the too bold speaker to the heart. For this offence, committed in the very presence of the Emperor, Hasain Khan was imprisoned and, though after a time released, was banished for life from the Court. His services under the Emperor alone saved him from execution. Shortly after his return to Rangpur he died without issue. His brother Aladad Khan had died a few months previously leaving six sons, of whom Inayat Khan, the eldest, succeeded to his uncle's estate. When Mahomed Muazudin Bahadar, son of Prince Mahomed Muazam and grandson of Aurangzeb, arrived at Multan, on his way to Shikarpur and Sind, Inayat Khan joined him and fought throughout the campaign. Bakhtiar Khan, the chief Afghan rebel, submitted and was, on the entreaty of Inayat Khan, forgiven.

This Chief was succeeded by his eldest son Sher Mahomed Khan, who was almost an imbecile, and his uncle Abid Khan administered affairs and possessed all real power. On the death of Abid Khan great dissensions arose in the family. Lashkar Khan, brother of Abid Khan, claimed the Chiefship



from his seniority, while Asghar Khan, brother of Sher Mahomed Khan, claimed through his father and his brother. The Afghans ranged themselves, some on one side, some on the other ; and it was only the influence of Hayat Khan the Governor that prevented bloodshed. Having induced all to promise to abide by his decision, he appointed Zahid Khan Chief. His choice was a good one, and was unanimously approved.

Zahid Khan was an able man, of gentle manners and considerable learning. He was a great friend of Kamrudin, Minister at Dehli, and when Nadir Shah invaded India, and the Moghal power was becoming weak in the distant provinces, he was summoned to Dehli and, through the interest of Kamrudin, appointed Nawab of Multan. This was in 1738. Zahid Khan, immediately on his nomination, wrote to his son Shakar Khan to assume the Nawabship ; but Ishak Khan, the Governor in possession, would not submit, and was only ousted after a severe struggle. In 1747 Ahmad Shah Durani invaded India and, after having put to flight Shah Nawaz Khan, the Governor of Lahore, moved down to Multan, where he confirmed Zahid Khan in his appointment. This led the Dehli Court to believe that Zahid Khan had betrayed them and gone over to the enemy ; and Shahnawaz Khan was appointed to supersede him as Governor, while Mir Manu, son of Wazir Kamrudin, was made Viceroy at Lahore. Zahid Khan did not at first oppose the new Governor ; but during the Baisakhi festival a soldier in the service of Shah Nawaz Khan insulted an Afghan woman in a village near the city. This caused a general riot, in which a relative of Diwan Lakbpat Rai lost his hand. Zahid Khan then assembled his Afghans and attacked the forces of Shah Nawaz Khan, who was worsted and compelled to send to Lahore to beg assistance from Mir Manu. The Lahore Governor was the last man to give assistance to Shah Nawaz

Khan, whom he hated as a rival, and sent instead a force against him under Kura Mal, whom he appointed his Deputy at Multan and created a Raja. Shah Nawaz Khan met the force about forty miles from Multan; but after an engagement, which is said to have lasted several days, he was defeated and slain.

Raja Kura Mal then entered Multan as Governor. He had before served in the province as Diwan; and Zahid Khan, thinking it beneath his dignity to render obedience to the new ruler, retired to Sitpur. Kura Mal was about to compel his submission by force of arms; but a new invasion of Ahmad Shah obliged him to proceed to Lahore, leaving Multan in the hands of Shakar Khan, son of Zahid Khan. Mir Manu and Kura Mal met the Abdali Chief near Lahore on the 12th April 1752 and gave him battle, but were defeated, and Kura Mal was slain. Mir Manu made his peace and was confirmed in his Viceroyalty, and under him Ali Mahomed Khan, an Afghan officer, was appointed Governor of Multan. Zahid Khan had died in 1749, and his son Shakar Khan gave over charge and remained on good terms with the new Governor.

In 1757 the Mahratas overran the Panjab. Raghoba, brother of the Peshwah, captured Lahore, and two Mahrata Chiefs, Salah Beg and Sanjli Beg, were sent against Multan, which they captured almost without opposition, Ali Mahomed Khan taking to flight. The Mahratas, whose rule was most oppressive, did not remain long; and the next Governor appointed by Ahmad Shah was Khwaja Yakub. Ali Mahomed Khan, who had at first obeyed the royal order after a little while, finding the Khwaja a feeble Governor, expelled him and again took possession of the Nawabship.

Shakar Khan had died, and his eldest son was a man of no ability; so Ahmad Shah wrote to Shuja Khan, the second son of Zahid Khan, directing him to assume the Nawabship. Shuja Khan collected his Afghans, and Ali Mahomed having



no force capable of opposing them submitted. Shuja Khan then became Governor, and built the fortress of Shujabad, twenty-three miles south of Multan. The turbulent Ali Mahomed Khan soon took up arms against him, and Shuja Khan, who had grown unpopular, was defeated and thrown into prison, while Ali Mahomed re-assumed the government. This proceeding irritated the Durani Monarch in the highest degree, and when he reached Multan in 1767 he ordered the arrest of Ali Mahomed, who was bold enough to attend the Darbar. Both the offender and his son were by order of Ahmad Shah ripped up, and their bodies paraded on camels through the city, with a proclamation to the effect that this should be the fate of any one who should insult a Sadozai. Shuja Khan was then re-invested with the government of Multan, and Ahmad Shah left for Kabul.

In 1771 the Sikhs, who were becoming very powerful, and who had in 1766 overran the Multan country under Jhanda Singh, attacked Multan, and for a month and a half besieged the fort; but Jahan Khan marched to its relief, and compelled them to retire. After this, Haji Sharif Khan Sadozai was nominated Governor by Timur Shah, and Shuja Khan again retired to his fort of Shujabad; but when called upon to give up to Government all the proceeds of his zamindari estates, he refused and came to an open rupture with the Governor. On this, another Haji Sharif Khan Taklu, otherwise known as Mirza Sharif Beg, was appointed, in conjunction with a merchant named Dharam Das; and contrived to keep on good terms with Shuja Khan. But Abdul Karim Khan Bamazai invaded Multan, and the Mirza called in the Sikhs to his assistance. Timur Shah, hearing that the Mirza had chosen allies from among his bitter enemies, superseded him and sent Madat Khan to fill the post. Sharif Beg resisted the new Governor; but Shuja Khan supported him, and they together besieged Sharif

Beg in the citadel. They could not take it, however, and Madat Khan was recalled to Kandahar. Timur Shah now directed the Bahawalpur Chief to reduce the rebellious Governor to obedience. He accordingly marched to Multan with his Daudputras, accompanied by Muzafar Khan, son of Shuja Khan. The fort was besieged and taken in eighteen days; but the triumph was a short one. Sharif Beg had called to his assistance Sardars Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh, the Bhangi Chiefs, and they now appeared with a large force. They defeated the Bahawalpur troops and stormed the fort, which they kept for themselves. The Mirza on this fled to Talamba, and from thence to Khairpur Tanwein, where he died not long afterwards.

The Sikhs then attacked and captured Shujabad, whither Shuja Khan had fled, and he only escaped with difficulty, and took refuge at Bahawalpur. Sardar Jhanda Singh then left Multan in charge of Diwan Singh Chachowalia, one of his Misaldars, and returned to Amritsar. This was in 1772. Some time after this Shuja Khan died, and in 1777 his son Muzafar Khan persuaded Bahawal Khan, Chief of Bahawalpur, to make another effort to recover the city. He accordingly attacked the fort, and was at first successful; but after a siege of twenty-three days was repulsed with loss, and Muzafar Khan then applied for aid to Kabul. Sardar Madat Khan was again despatched with a considerable force, but he did not reach Multan till early in the following year. Kabul politics had then changed, and his services were required at home, and he was recalled without having effected anything. Muzafar Khan then retired to Uch, where he lived under the protection of the famous Makhdum Sahib Shekh Hamid till 1779, when Timur Shah, king of Kabul, marched to Multan with a large army, and recovered it from the Sikhs after a siege of forty days. The Sikhs were allowed to retire unmolested, and Muzafar Khan was appointed Governor with



the title of Nawab Ruknudaula (Pillar of the State). The new Governor was an energetic and able man, and very much improved the Province during his long rule. He had not, however, much time to bestow on works of peace, for from 1779 till his death in 1818 he was engaged in constant war. The Sikhs of the Bhangi Misal attacked him first, and then Sahib Khan Sial and Sardar Karam Singh Bhangi made a joint attack, which was only repulsed with difficulty.

In 1790 Muzafar Khan, leaving Multan in charge of Mahomed Khan Bahadarkhel, journeyed to Kabul, and remained absent for two years. When Zaman Shah ascended the throne Muzafar Khan was confirmed in his Governorship, and in 1797, when that Prince invaded India, and the Sikhs lost for a time their ascendancy, he drove them out of Kot Kamalia, which he made over to its hereditary Rais, Sadat Yar Khan Kharal.

The great enemy of Muzafar Khan at Multan was Abdul Samad Khan, one of the Sadozai Chiefs, who did all he could to injure the Nawab at the Courts of Lahore and Kabul, and who was at one time appointed Governor by Shah Zaman; but at last he was defeated, his fort taken and his jagirs confiscated.

In 1802 Muzafar Khan first saw the young Chief Ranjit Singh, who had marched towards Multan to spy out the land. The Nawab came out to meet him thirty miles from the city, and the Chiefs, having interchanged valuable presents, separated very good friends. Again in 1806, after having reduced Jhang, Ranjit Singh marched towards Multan, and reached Mahtam, twenty miles north of the city, when the Nawab, who had no wish to fight with the Sikh Chief, gave him Rs. 70,000 to retire. Ranjit Singh bestowed valuable khilats on the Nawab and took his departure. Ahmad Khan Sial, the Chief of Jhang, who had been just ousted by Ranjit Singh, took refuge at Multan, and Muzafar

Khan gave him men and money, with which he contrived to recover a considerable portion of his territory, though he was unable to oust entirely Fateh Singh Kalianwala, the Sardar in possession. Abdul Samad Khan, the defeated Sadozai Chief, who had taken refuge at Lahore, persuaded Ranjit Singh in 1807 to attack Multan in force. The town was in part captured, but the fort held out against all the Sikh efforts; and an agreement was concluded, through Fateh Singh Kalianwala, by which the Maharaja retired on receiving a large sum of money.

In this year Muzafar Khan, tired of constant war, made over the Nawabship to his son Sarfaraz Khan, and set out on the pilgrimage to Mecca. He met with many difficulties on the journey. The Arabs, attracted by the splendour of his cavalcade, attacked it in great numbers, and were only bought off with great difficulty. Muzafar Khan was absent fourteen months; and at the close of 1808, soon after his return as a Haji (one who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca), Mr. Elphinstone visited Multan on his way to the Court of Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk at Peshawar. He was hospitably received, and the Nawab wished to place himself under British protection; but the British Envoy had no authority to accept his allegiance, and Muzafar Khan opened a correspondence with the Governor-General in Calcutta, expressing his desire to be on good terms with the English.

At the beginning of 1810 Maharaja Ranjit Singh again marched against Multan. He had just met Shah Shuja at Khushab, and the exiled monarch wished the Sikhs to take Multan and make it over to him. Muzafar Khan had in 1803 repulsed an attack of the Shah's troops, and, in the hope of conciliating him, had more than once offered him an asylum at Multan; but Shah Shuja wished to obtain the city and province as his own by conquest. The Maharaja



treated the weak-minded Prince with great respect, but, failing to obtain any money from him, determined to take Multan on his own account. On the 24th February 1810 he arrived before the walls, and next day took possession of the city.

The neighbouring Chiefs were much alarmed at the proceedings of the Maharaja. Mahomed Khan, Chief of Leiah and Bhakar, paid Rs. 1,20,000 as the ransom of his country, and Sadik Mahomed Khan of Bahawalpur offered a lakh with the same object, but it was not accepted. He, however, though Muzafar Khan was his friend, was compelled to send five hundred horsemen as a reinforcement to the Sikhs. For some time the fort was bombarded without effect, and mining was then resorted to; but the besieged countermined with success, and blew up the battery of Atar Singh Dhari, killing him, with twelve men, and seriously wounding others, among whom were Sardar Nahal Singh Atariwala and the young Hari Singh Nalwa. The battery was so near the fort that the Sikhs were unable to carry off their dead: and these were sent in by the besieged, the body of Atar Singh being covered with a pair of shawls.

Diwan Mohkam Chand was sent to reduce Shujabad; but this fort was of considerable strength and could not be taken. On the 21st March a general assault was ordered; but the Sikhs were repulsed with great loss, and they now grew disheartened, for provisions had become very dear in the camp; Diwan Mohkam Chand was dangerously ill, and several leaders had been slain, while scarcely any impression had been made on the citadel. On the 25th another assault was made, with the same result. It was necessary to raise the siege; and Ranjit Singh, to his intense mortification, had to accept from Muzafar Khan the terms he had many times rejected, namely, two and a half lakhs

of rupees, twenty war horses, and a contingent in time of war. Having received Rs. 30,000 in earnest of the ransom, the Maharaja retired from Multan on the 14th of April. Seeing that his own strength was insufficient for the capture of Multan, Ranjit Singh addressed the Governor General, requesting the co-operation of British troops. His proposition was not well received, the more so as he proposed that the force, instead of marching through the Panjab, should pass through the sterile country south of the Satlaj. Shah Shuja even prepared for an independent attack on Multan, but he was wise enough to relinquish the idea, which could have had no chance of success.

The Nawab now quarrelled with Sadik Khan of Bahawalpur, who had assisted his enemies in the late war. There was a strong party in Bahawalpur, headed by Fateh Mahomed Gori and Ahmad Khan, opposed to the Khan; and these, having failed in an attempt to assassinate their master, took refuge in Multan territory. The Khan remonstrated with the Nawab for allowing them an asylum; but Muzafar Khan, whose wrath was by no means appeased, supported the rebels, and when he saw that they were about to be overpowered declared war against the Khan. He proceeded to Shujabad himself in person, and sent forward his army against Yakub Mahomed Khan, the Bahawalpur General. An action ensued, in which the Daud-putras, being the more numerous and better supplied with artillery, were the victors, and the Afghan force retreated to Shujabad. In 1811 Muzafar Khan was engaged in conflict with Mahar Rajab of the Rajbanah tribe, a rebellious dependant of his own. He defeated him and destroyed his fort, upon the site of which he built Firozgarh.

In February 1816 an irregular attack was made upon Multan by the Sikhs. A strong force had been sent to Bahawalpur and Multan to collect the tribute; and there



being some delay in Muzafar Khan's payment, Phula Singh Akali, mad and drunk with *bhang*, led a storming party of fanatics like himself against the town, and with such impetuosity did they make the attack that they gained possession of some of the outworks of the citadel. But Fakir Azizudin made due apologies; the Nawab paid his tribute quicker than he would otherwise have done, and the Sikh army proceeded towards Mankera. In 1817 a Sikh army under Diwan Chand marched against Multan and attacked the fort, but was repulsed, and retired on payment of ten thousand rupees. These attacks, however, were not made in earnest. The Maharaja was collecting his strength for a great effort; and he had sworn that Multan, which had so often defied him, should yet be his. During the cold weather of 1817 he was collecting supplies and men from all quarters, and in January 1818 an army of twenty-five thousand men under the nominal command of Prince Kharak Singh, but in reality commanded by Misar Diwan Chand, marched from Lahore. On the way to Multan the forts of Khangarh and Muzafargarh were taken, the city was invested and captured early in February, and the bombardment of the fort commenced. The Nawab had a garrison of only two thousand men, and the citadel was not provisioned for a siege; but he made a defence the like of which the Sikhs had never before seen. Till the 2nd June the bombardment went on, and two large breaches had been made in the walls; for the great Bhangi gun, the *Zam-Zam* of Ahmad Shah Durani, had been brought from Lahore and had been four times fired with effect. More than one assault was made by the Sikhs, but they were repulsed on one occasion with the loss of one thousand eight hundred men. The gates were blown in, but the garrison raised behind them mounds of earth on which they fought hand to hand with the Sikhs. The defenders

of the fort were at length reduced to two or three hundred fighting men, most of them of the tribe or family of Muzafar Khan. The rest had either been killed, or had gone over to the enemy; for they had been heavily bribed to desert their master, and many of them were unable to resist the temptation. At length, on the 2nd June, an Akali, by name Sadhu Singh, determined to surpass what Phula Singh had done in 1816, rushed with a few desperate followers into an outwork of the fort and, taking the Afghans by surprise, captured it. The Sikh forces, seeing this success, advanced to the assault and mounted the breach at Khizri Gate. Here the old Nawab, with his eight sons and all that remained of the garrison, stood, sword in hand, resolved to fight to the death. So many fell beneath the keen Afghan swords that the Sikhs drew back and opened fire on the little party with their matchlocks. "Come on like men," shouted the Afghan, "and let us fall in fair fight." But this was an invitation the Sikhs did not care to accept. There died the white bearded Muzafar Khan, scorning to accept quarter; and there died his five sons, Shah Nawaz Khan, Mumtaz Khan, Azaz Khan, Hak Nawaz Khan and Shah Baz Khan. Zulfakar Khan, his second son, was also wounded severely in the face; and the two others, Sarfaraz Khan and Amir Beg Khan, accepted quarter and were saved. Diwan Ram Dayal took Sarfaraz Khan upon his elephant and conducted him with all honour to his own tent. Few of the garrison escaped with their lives,\* and the whole city was given up to plunder. The fort of Shujabad was also reduced and five guns taken from it. After this the walls of Multan were repaired, and a

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\* Mr. Moorcroft was told by Maharaja Ranjit Singh that five hundred of the garrison survived and received quarter. This was false. At the time of the last assault there were not three hundred fighting men in the fort, and most of these fell at the breach.



garrison of six hundred men, under command of Sardars Jodh Singh Kalsia and Dal Singh Naharna, being left in the fort the Sikh army returned to Lahore.

Multan was supposed to be very wealthy ; and, the share of the Maharaja amounting to only two lakhs of rupees, he issued an order that all officers and soldiers should restore their plunder, and that if any was found with them after a certain date the penalty would be certain death. This order brought in some five lakhs to the State Treasury ; but the plunder of Multan was estimated at two millions sterling.\*

Nawab Muzafar Khan was buried with honour by the shrine of Bahaudin with his son Shah Nawaz. Sarfaraz Khan, his eldest son, had been for some years Nawab, his father having procured the confirmation of his succession from the Kabul Court. He was carried prisoner to Lahore by Diwan Chand, and was well received by the Maharaja, who gave him a jagir at Sharakpur and Naolakha, afterwards commuted to a cash pension. Zulfakar Khan also received a pension. Sarfaraz Khan was at first rigorously guarded in Lahore ; but when the Maharaja's power was secure in Multan he was allowed perfect freedom, and was always treated with respect and friendship by Ranjit Singh. In 1848 his influence was useful to the British Government in inducing the Multani Pathans to abandon the cause of Mulraj, which, however, they did not want much pressing to do. At annexation the Nawab had a jagir of Rs. 1,100, the village of Chamusa and a cash pension of Rs. 14,720. The pension was maintained for his life, and the jagir was to descend to his son Firozdin. Sarfaraz Khan died on the 12th March 1851, leaving eight sons and seven daughters, and Firozdin in 1855. The jagir has accordingly lapsed to Government.

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\* Many are the stories told about the loot of Multan. It never brought happiness or good fortune to the possessors, who were killed in battle, or died childless or in poverty.

Abdul Majid Khan is the only son of Shah Nawaz Khan. His mother was a Bamazai lady, a daughter of Abdul Karim Khan, some time Governor of the Derajat, and brother of Wazir Shah Wali Khan, Minister of Ahmad Shah Durani. Abdul Majid Khan is much respected in Lahore, where he is a Member of the Municipal Committee and an Honorary Magistrate. He has been active in all measures for the good of the city; and has given satisfaction as a Magistrate by the justice of his decisions. He is a man of considerable learning and is well versed in medicine. In January 1865 he was created a Nawab by the Supreme Government. He was made Fellow of the Panjab University in 1869, and was for several years Vice-President of the Lahore Municipal Committee. He was honoured with the title of Assistant Commissioner in 1877, and the Companionship of the Star of India was conferred upon him in 1887. Nawab Abdul Majid Khan has throughout his whole career warmly identified himself as a loyal subject of Her Majesty. He possesses many valuable certificates from officials of the highest standing in the Province testifying to his admirable character. Abdul Majid was a fast friend of the Raja Randhir Singh of Kapurthala, grandfather of the present ruler. He was for a short time an office-bearer in that State, and his services were of great value during the protracted illness of the late Raja Kharak Singh. He has been for many years in receipt of an annual allowance of three thousand six hundred rupees from the Kapurthala Darbar. He is now crippled by illness and almost bedridden. He has no offspring.

Ahmad Ali Khan, son of Nawab Sarfaraz Khan, died in 1884. He had been in receipt of a pension of twelve hundred rupees from the British Government; and the Kapurthala State made him an allowance of Rs. 480 per annum. He was a half owner with his cousin Azam Ali Khan in some well-



plots in Mouza Baghbanpur, near Lahore, nominally set apart for the maintenance of his father's tomb; and he held over three hundred bigas in Mouza Chaura, Tahsil Sharakpur, Lahore. Amir Baz Khan, brother of Sarfaraz Khan, was a pensioner of the Nawab of Bahawalpur, who made him an allowance of eighteen hundred rupees per annum. His son Mahomed Ali Khan, who died in 1883, was allowed a similar sum by the Nawab.

Of the sons of Zulfakar Khan, Mahomed Jahangir Khan, who had been in receipt of a pension of Rs. 1,620, died in 1881. He was for some years a member of the Lahore Municipal Committee. Ahmad Yar Khan is a Naib-Tahsildar in the Lahore Division. His second wife is a niece of the late Amir Dost Mahomed Khan of Kabul. He was in receipt of an allowance of one thousand rupees per annum from the Amirs of Kabul down to 1875, when it ceased in consequence of his taking service under the British Government. He enjoys a family pension of Rs. 1,440 per annum. He is a Viceregal Darbari.

Of Firozdin Khan's sons, Kasim Ali took service as a Rasaldar in the Bahawalpur State. He had a pension of Rs. 1,200 from Government. He died in 1881. His brother Hasham Khan was also a servant of the Bahawalpur Nawab, and a pensioner of the British Government. He died in 1887. Sadik Ali and Shamsher Ali are alive, in receipt of small pensions. Many other members of the family are attached to the Court of the Nawab of Bahawalpur.

Mention may be here made of Nur Mahomed Khan of Multan, Provincial Darbari and representative of the Khizar Khel branch. His father Mobazarudin died in 1886. The only jagir now enjoyed by the family is a small grant in Mouza Taraf Ismail, Multan, held in perpetuity. Nur Mahomed Khan's uncle Bahram Khan had a jagir from Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Rs. 1,200, which was reduced by

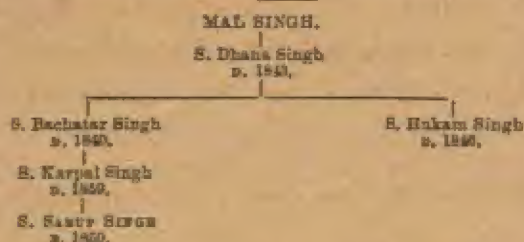
one half at annexation. He served for some years as Tahsildar, and behaved loyally in 1858 when the Sepoy Regiments mutinied at Multan. He ultimately took up his abode at Mecca, and died there in 1873. The cash inam enjoyed by him for Mutiny services has been continued to his three sons.

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NOTE.—Nawab Abdul Majid Khan died at Lahore on 26th February 1890.



## SARDAR SARUP SINGH MALWAI.



Sardar Sarup Singh is descended from a respectable Manjha Jat family, formerly resident at Moran Kalan in the Nabha territory. Mal Singh, the first of the family to become a Sikh, is stated to have left Nabha about 1760 for the Panjab, where he entered the service of Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia as a sowar, and was killed after some years in the Dhani Campaign. His son Dhana Singh, about the year 1800, enlisted in the force of Sardar Fateh Singh Kalianwala as a trooper, and soon rose in the favour of that Chief, obtaining an independent command. He fought in the Kalianwala Contingent in the Bhati and Kasur Campaigns. On the death of Sardar Fateh Singh at Narayangarh in 1807, Dhana Singh entered the service of the Maharaja, who gave him a jagir at Bilasor, near 'Taran Taran, worth Rs. 2,000.' He was one of the agents sent by Ranjit Singh to Wazir Fateh Khan of Kabul to arrange the interview which took place between them at Jhulam on the 1st December 1812. About this time Dhana Singh received the jagir of Talagang in the Jhulam district, worth Rs. 33,000. In the campaign of 1810 against Fateh Khan of Sahiwal, he received a wound in the face; and in July 1813 he fought in the battle of Attock, when Fateh Khan Barakzai was defeated by Diwan Mohkam Chand. He accompanied the detachment of Ram Dayal and Dal Singh Naharna in the first unsuccessful expedition against Kashmir, and received in a skirmish a sword-cut on the arm. The Sardar fought gallantly at the siege of Multan

in 1818, and was one of the foremost in the assault. The jewelled sword and shield of Nawab Muzafar Khan fell into his hands, and were brought by him to the Maharaja, who gave him a jagir worth Rs. 5,000, which was soon exchanged for another near Talagang.

In 1819 he served in the second Kashmir expedition, and in 1821 at the siege of Mankera, where he was again wounded. At this time Dhana Singh was much favoured by the Maharaja, and there were few Sardars whose influence was greater, or whose advice was more regarded. He was present at the capture of Jahangira and at the battle of Teri in 1823, and continued for some time in the Peshawar district under the command of Sardar Budh Singh Sindhanwalia and Prince Kharak Singh. Bachatar Singh, eldest son of Sardar Dhana Singh, entered the army about 1827, and his first service was at Bahawalpur, where he was sent to receive the tribute. In 1823 Dhana Singh accompanied the force sent to seize Kangra, when Raja Anrud Chand fled across the Satlaj to avoid an alliance with Raja Dhian Singh, Minister at Lahore. When Peshawar was occupied by the Sikhs in force, Bachatar Singh was sent to Shabkadar, where a new cantonment had been laid out and a fort built by Sardar Chatar Singh Atariwala. He was stationed there when the Afghan army attacked that post and the fort of Jamrud in April 1837. Dhana Singh heard of the defeat of the Sikh army and the death of Hari Singh Nalwa as he was marching to Peshawar. He was ordered to join the relieving force of Raja Dhian Singh, which advanced with all haste to the assistance of the army, which was surrounded by the Afghans and reduced to the last extremity.

In January 1839 Sardars Bachatar Singh and Hukam Singh were sent with the Sikh force escorting Shahzada Timur, son of Shah Shuja, to Peshawar; and a few months later Hukam Singh returned to Lahore with Prince Nao



Nahal Singh, who started for the capital immediately he received news of the death of his grandfather Ranjit Singh.

In 1841, after Maharaja Sher Singh had ascended the throne, Hukam Singh was sent with Budh Singh Malal to Kulu to bring in to Lahore Sardars Lahna Singh and Kahar Singh Sindhanwalia as prisoners. This duty he performed, and received an increase to his jagirs of Rs. 8,000 and a grant of Rs. 2,000 from the Kashmir customs. Bachatar Singh died in 1840, and his father Dhana Singh in May 1843. The death of the latter was the cause of some ill-feeling on the part of the Sikh Government towards the British, in the following manner. The native village of Dhana Singh was, as has been already stated, Moran in the Nabha territory. After the Multan Campaign, when he was in high power with Ranjit Singh, he begged that Moran might be obtained for him in jagir. The Maharaja accordingly applied to the Raja of Nabha, who, in May 1819, made him a grant of the village in exchange for certain villages which the Maharaja gave to the sister of the Nabha Chief for her life. Ranjit Singh, on obtaining Moran, gave it in jagir to Sardar Dhana Singh, who held it till his death, and, although residing himself at Court, kept there his family and much of his property. The Raja of Nabha had for some time before Dhana Singh's death desired to resume the village; for the Sardar never obeyed his orders or tendered him any allegiance; but the British authorities, who had a regard for the fine old Chief, interposed in his behalf. But when Dhana Singh died, Raja Davindar Singh of Nabha, armed with a letter admitting his right from Sir George Clerk, and a letter from Maharaja Khara Singh permitting him to resume the village, marched troops against it and took possession by force, killing and wounding some of the Malwai retainers and seizing the property of Hukam Singh, the son of the deceased Sardar. Hukam Singh loudly protested against this treatment; but

before any action had been taken by either Government in the matter, Maharaja Sher Singh was assassinated, and every one at Lahore was too busy in looking after his own interests to remember the village of Moran.

When, however, tranquillity had been restored, the Lahore Government made a demand for the restoration of Moran, an estate given by Raja Jaswant Singh of Nabha to Ranjit Singh. To the British authorities this was a new view of the matter. General Ochterlony, Sir George Clerk and Colonel Richmond had never known that the village had been given to the Maharaja, but imagined that it had been a jagir grant from Nabha to Dhana Singh. The grant to Lahore was in itself invalid, for a dependent State had no power to transfer a village to an independent one without the consent of the Paramount Power. The letter, too, which the Raja of Nabha stated he had received from Maharaja Kharak Singh, allowing him to resume the village, turned out to be no more than a copy of a copy. The weak-minded Maharaja may have drafted such a letter, and the Raja may have obtained, through secret influence, a copy of it, but Raja Dhian Singh, the Minister at Lahore, had never sanctioned it, and its authenticity was doubtful in the extreme. The result was that Moran was restored neither to the Lahore State nor to Hukam Singh ; and the Raja of Nabha received the sharpest reprimand for his unstraightforward conduct. This incident would have been unworthy of so much notice in this place, had not the decision of the British Government irritated, in no small degree, the Sikh nation. There can be no possible doubt but that the conduct of the British Government was just and necessary ; but the Sikhs were at this time in a feverish and excited state. Every precaution, which the lawlessness of the Sikh army forced upon the British, they considered as hostile to themselves ; and the refusal to make over the village of Moran to Lahore, although its first transfer was clandestine and invalid, they considered as a deliberate insult.



To the other jagirs of his father Hukam Singh succeeded, and with the grants of Maharaja Sher Singh, personal to himself, his estates amounted to Rs. 75,000 per annum. He was present in the garden of Shah Bilawal when the Maharaja was assassinated by the Sindhanwalias, and in the subsequent struggle was severely wounded in the shoulder. Little is known of Hukam Singh during the two following years, when he appears to have lived a retired life. He was killed at the battle of Sobraon in February 1846, and soon after his death Raja Lal Singh reduced the jagirs to Rs. 25,000, which were continued to Sardar Karpal Singh, subject to the service of sixty horse.

Karpal Singh was with Raja Sher Singh at Multan in 1848. When the Raja's force rebelled Karpal Singh separated himself from it, and with a few of his sowars came in to the camp of Major Edwardes, with whom he had previously served in Bannu. His personal jagir of Rs. 11,000 was on annexation confirmed to him for life, and a new jagir of Rs. 5,000, for loyalty at Multan, granted in perpetuity. The jagir was subject to the payment of a pension of Rs. 1,500 per annum to Chand Kaur, widow of Sardar Hukam Singh. This lady died in 1863.

Sardar Karpal Singh enlisted sepoy and showed himself well affected to Government in 1857, and received a khilat of Rs. 500 and a sanad of approbation. He died in 1859, leaving an only son, Sarup Singh, who was educated at the Lahore Government School. The widow of Sardar Karpal Singh receives an allowance of Rs. 1,200 per annum. The jagir now held by Sarup Singh, and which descends to his children, yields Rs. 6,797 per annum. It includes the revenues of eleven villages in the Tahsils of Sharakpur, Chunian, and Lahore. He owns some lands in Mouza Bhikawal, Lahore, and Mouza Nur Manabad in Firozpur.

## FAKIR ZAHURUDIN BOKHARI.



Sayad Ghulam Mohauidin, the father of Azizudin, Imamudin and Nurudin, was the son of Ghulam Shah, who held a subordinate office under Nawab Abdulsamad Khan and Zakaria Khan, Governors of Lahore. The family of Ghulam Shah was respectable, and had from about the year 1550



resided at Chunian in the Lahore district, and before that time at Uch in the Bahawalpur territory. The founder of it was Jalaludin, a native of Arabia, who at the close of the seventh century of the Mahomedan era came to the Court of Halaku Khan of Bokhara. He had served for some years as a priest at Mecca, Medina and the shrine at Najib Sharif; and had made pilgrimages to the tomb of Suliman and Ghosal Azam at Baghdad, and had gained a great reputation for sanctity. In Bokhara he gained many disciples, but incurred the hatred of Halaku Khan, who was an idolater and a tyrant, by bold denunciation of his cruelty and oppression, and was seized by the royal order and thrown into a blazing furnace. But, like the three Jewish saints, his body was proof against fire, and he came forth unscorched and unharmed; and Halaku Khan, not proof against such arguments, became a convert to Mahomedanism with many of his subjects; and gave his own daughter in marriage to Jalaludin, who lived for some years in Bokhara, where there are still many of his descendants. From the residence of Jalaludin at Bokhara the family has obtained the name of Bokhari. At length he again set out upon his travels, taking with him his little grandson Bahandin. On the journey, when the child was thirsty, does came and fed him with their milk, and after enduring many hardships they reached the Panjab. There, Jalaludin made many converts, and finally settled at Uch, formerly known as Deogarh. He died in 1293, in the reign of Jalaludin Firoz Khiji.\*

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\* This account of the family claiming descent from the Bokhari Sayads is possibly true. There are, however, many who assert that it was only when Fakir Azizudin became rich and powerful that he discovered himself to be a Sayad; and an amusing story is told of the manner in which the genealogy was manufactured and promulgated. Certain it is that until the time of Maharaja Sher Singh the Fakirs styled themselves, and were styled in all official documents, 'Ansari'; after 1840 they styled themselves 'Bokhari.' But, on the other hand, Fakir Azizudin was so truthful a man that it is impossible to believe that he would become a principal to such a fraud; and he was too careless of nominal distinctions to value the title of Sayad, 'Ansari' or 'Bokhari.' He knew that the dress and style of Fakir were his greatest protection in the intriguing and unscrupulous Court of Lahore, and he would never accept the titles and honours which the Maharaja desired to confer on him.

Ghulam Mohaiudin was born at Rahila on the river Bias. When he was three months old his father Ghulam Shah died, and his widowed mother, left in great poverty, came to Lahore to seek help from her husband's friends. Abdula Ansari, a well-known physician of Lahore, who had been Judge in Kashmir early in the reign of Ahmad Shah, and whose father had written a medical work, *Tazkira Ishakiya*, which is still an authority, took pity upon her and supported both her and her son. He gave to Ghulam Mohaiudin a good education; and when the boy had grown up married him to his niece, the daughter of his brother Khuda Bakhsh. Ghulam Mohaiudin became a physician and a bookseller and, in pursuit of his trade, travelled over a large portion of the Panjab. He became a disciple of Fakir Amanat Shah Kadri, and himself assumed the title of Fakir; and his *murids* or disciples are still to be found in Lahore and Bahawalpur.

Ghulam Mohaiudin left three sons, Azizudin, Imamudin and Nurudin. Of these, Azizudin, the eldest, was a pupil of Lala Hakim Rai, the chief Lahore physician, who placed him in attendance on Ranjit Singh when that Chief, soon after his capture of Lahore in 1799, was suffering from a severe affection of the eyes. The skill and attention of the young doctor won the Chief's regard, and Azizudin received a grant of the village of Badu and Sharakpur, and a cash assignment on Diwan Hukman Singh Pathban, who at that time farmed the customs of Lahore, as Rama Nand did those of Amritsar. Ranjit Singh made him his own physician and, as he extended his territories, the jagirs of Azizudin were also increased.

In the year 1808, when Mr. Metcalfe was sent to Lahore to draw up an agreement by which Ranjit Singh should be confined to the north of the Satlaj, and in 1809, when the British troops were moved up to that river, the Sikh Chief, supported by his Sardars, had almost determined on war with



the English; but Azizudin strongly dissuaded him from such a course, and his wiser counsels at last prevailed. Ranjit Singh, appreciating the far-sightedness and wisdom of Azizudin, consulted him on all occasions; and from this time to the end of his reign never undertook any important operation against his advice. In all matters connected with Europeans and the English Government, Azizudin was specially employed; and to the Fakir's enlightened and liberal counsels it may be attributed that throughout his long reign the Maharaja maintained such close friendship with the English Government. Trusting implicitly to its good faith, he would set out with his whole army on distant expeditions, leaving only the Fakir with a few orderlies for the protection of Lahore.

Azizudin was employed on several occasions on military service. In 1810 he was sent to annex the Gujrat country of Sahib Singh Bhangî, and in 1831, when Jahan Dad Khan had given up Atock to the Maharaja, he was sent, with Diwan Din Das Sukhdayal and Sardar Mota Singh, to reinforce the garrison and to settle the district. In 1819 he was sent as Envoy to the Bahawalpur Court, and was received there with great honour. He accompanied the expedition against Kangra; and in 1826, when Diwan Karpa Ram fell into disgrace, Fakir Azizudin was sent to receive from him the fort of Philaor, of which he took charge till it was placed under Sardar Desa Singh Majithia; and shortly before this he had assumed charge of Kapurthala, Jandiala, Hushiarpur and the Trans-Satlaj estates of Fateh Singh Ahluwalia, who had fled across the Satlaj for British protection. In April 1831, Azizudin, in company with Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa and Diwan Moti Ram, was sent to Simla on a complimentary visit to Lord William Bentinck.\* The Envoys were received with great honour, and arrangements were made for a meeting

\* It was during this visit to Simla that an English officer asked Fakir Azizudin of which eye the Maharaja was blind? He replied: "The splendour of his face is such that I have never been able to look close enough to discover."

between the Maharaja and the Governor-General, which took place at Rupar in October of the same year.

In May 1835 he was present in the Peshawar valley when Amir Dost Mahomed Khan with a large army arrived from Kabul with the intention of recovering Peshawar from the Sikhs. Azizudin was sent as the principal Envoy to the Afghan camp, and contrived to delude the Amir so completely that the Afghan army was almost surrounded by the Sikhs during the progress of the negotiations, and had to retire to Kabul with all speed. The Maharaja was so pleased with the adroitness of the Fakir on this occasion that on his return to camp a general salute was ordered in his honour.

In November 1838, when the British forces were being assembled for the Kabul Campaign, the Maharaja visited Lord Auckland, the Governor-General, at Ferozpur, where the splendour of the scene even surpassed that of the meeting at Rupar in 1831, which had been called the 'Meeting of the field of cloth of gold.' Shortly afterwards Lord Auckland paid the Maharaja a return visit at Lahore and Amritsar; and on both these occasions the Fakir had been foremost in his attentions, doing the honours in the most graceful manner for his master, whose health was fast giving way.

On the 27th June 1839 Ranjit Singh died. To the last Azizudin, the most faithful of his servants, the most devoted of his friends, had remained by him; administering the medicine with his own hand, and telling him news from various quarters which the Maharaja was anxious to hear. On the accession of Maharaja Kharak Singh, Azizudin and Sardar Lahna Singh Majithia were sent to Simla to renew the engagements which had been entered into by Ranjit Singh with the British Government. While at Simla, news arrived of the murder of Sardar Chet Singh, the Minister and favourite of Kharak Singh, and the assumption of power by Prince Nao Nahal Singh. This news caused some hesitation at Simla; but



the Treaty was eventually renewed, and the the Envoys returned to Lahore.

The influence of the Fakir at Court did not perceptibly decline during the reign of Kharak Singh. In May 1840 he was deputed by the Darbar to visit Mr. Clerk at Ferozpur, and he made the arrangements for the visit which that officer paid the Maharaja at Lahore in the same month. In September of the same year, in company with Rai Govind Jas, he was again sent on a confidential mission to Mr. Clerk to discuss the treatment of the Ghilzi and Barakzai Chiefs, and the interpretation of the first article of the Tripartite Treaty of 1838, which had been somewhat infringed by the action taken by the Sikhs in Yusufzai and Swat.

In the intrigues which succeeded the deaths of Kharak Singh and Nao Nahal Singh, the Fakir did not take an active part. Raja Dhian Singh indeed used always to consult him; and they both were parties to the arrangement by which Mai Chand Kaur was appointed Regent during the pregnancy of Sahib Kaur, widow of Prince Nao Nahal Sing. Azizudin was well aware that this arrangement could not be a successful one, and his sympathies were all with Prince Sher Singh; but his great influence was in the Foreign Department, and regarding home politics he at this time rarely ventured an opinion in Darbar.

When Sher Singh obtained the throne he treated Azizudin with the greatest kindness; and in March 1841 sent him to Ludhiana to sound Mr. Clerk, the Agent of the Governor-General, as to the willingness of the British Government to aid him in reducing his troops to obedience. Mr. Clerk was not averse to the idea. The Sikhs, before the experience of the Satlaj Campaign, were not considered formidable in the field, and Mr. Clerk thought that with twelve thousand troops it was possible to reduce the Khalsa army to obedience throughout the plain country of the Panjab; in case of resistance, to disperse it and to establish Sher Singh firmly on the throne. The

terms on which such assistance would be rendered were the cession to the British Government of the Lahore territory south of the Satlaj and the payment of forty lakhs of rupees for the expenses of the expedition. The Fakir, with his colleague, Munshi Din Mahomed, had no authority to conclude so important a transaction as this; and asked permission, as the matter could not be trusted to paper, to go to Lahore to consult the Maharaja, promising to return in eight days. He never returned, and perhaps never intended to do so. The Maharaja was more afraid of the British army than of his own: and, in spite of the revolt of the troops in Mandi, wrote to the Agent to say that he had suppressed all mutiny, and that the Sikh army, obedient and loyal, was ready to march against the enemies of the English.\*

Sher Singh feared that the British army, once having occupied Lahore, would never again leave it. Fakir Azizudin, who knew better the policy of the English Government, professed himself still anxious for its interference, and directed his son Shahdin, the Lahore agent at Ludhiana, to urge Mr. Clerk to renew the overtures made, and to send for Babā Mahan Singh, a confidential servant of the Maharaja, to conduct the negotiations. But Mr. Clerk did not find it politic again to take the initiative, and the scheme was wisely abandoned.

About this time an accident befell Azizudin, which it was feared would end fatally. He was seated in Darbar, at Shah Bilawal, next to Diwan Bishan Singh, whose sword, as he rose from his seat, wounded the Fakir severely in the leg. He fainted from loss of blood, and it was thought that lock-jaw would come on. Gradually, however, he recovered; and this accident afforded him an excuse to attend the Darbar less frequently; for he, with the other Ministers, feared the abuse and excesses of the soldiery.

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\* The Supreme Government did not adopt the extreme views of Mr. Clerk, and deprecated armed interference, unless the course of events in the Panjab should render it absolutely necessary.



In February 1842 Azizudin was sent by the Maharaja to Makhu, on the south side of the Satlaj, to meet Mr. Clerk, who was proceeding to Lahore on a mission of congratulation on the Maharaja's accession, and condolence on the death of Kharak Singh.

In December 1842 Sardar Lahna Singh Majithia was deputed by the Lahore Court to wait on Lord Ellenborough, who was present with the British army at Firozpur. Through some misunderstanding, the Sardar, expecting the Agent of the Governor-General to conduct him to the British camp remained in his tent, and the interview failed altogether to come off. Lord Ellenborough, thinking the slight intentional, demanded explanation. Fakir Azizudin accordingly, with Prince Partab Singh, Raja Hira Singh and other Sardars, proceeded to Firozpur, where a grand Darbar and review of both the Sikh and British armies were held. Azizudin explained away the apparent discourtesy, and so pleased the Governor-General that he called him, in full Darbar, "the protector of the friendship of both States," and taking from his pocket a gold watch presented it to him. This gift, valued beyond other khilats, is now in the possession of Fakir Jamaludin.

During the last year of Sher Singh's reign, Fakir Azizudin fell out of favour. He was suspected of attachment to the Jamu Rajas, whom Sher Singh hated, though he was unable to resist them. The truth was that Raja Dhian Singh found the abilities of Azizudin necessary to him; and indeed no Ministry at Lahore could have dispensed with the services of the Fakir. It was not without difficulty that Azizudin forgave Raja Dhian Singh for the murder of Sardar Chet Singh, his particular friend; but at length he seemed to believe that the Dogra Raja alone could save the State from disruption; and it was this belief which induced him to join their party.

After the death of Maharaja Sher Singh the Fakir took little part in politics. His health was bad, his eyesight failing, and his influence day by day grew less as the army became more powerful and reckless. He saw well whither the evil passions of the troops were hurrying them, and he raised his voice, unfortunately in vain, against the suicidal policy of Jawahir Singh and Lal Singh. His last act was to urge the recall of the invading army which had marched to the Satlaj against the British; and he died on the 3rd December 1845, before ruin had fallen on the State he had served so long and so faithfully.

Fakir Azizudin was one of the ablest, and certainly the most honest, of all Ranjit Singh's advisers. That monarch knew how to choose his Ministers; and throughout his long reign his confidence in and affection for Azizudin never lessened, as they were never betrayed or abused. There were few questions, either in home or foreign politics, on which the Maharaja did not ask his advice, while the conduct of negotiations with the English Government was left almost entirely in his hands; and it was undoubtedly owing in no small degree to the tact and wisdom of the Fakir that the two States remained till the close of Ranjit Singh's reign on terms of the most cordial friendship.

Fakir Azizudin was of so engaging a disposition, and so perfect a courtier in his manners, that he made few declared enemies, though many were doubtless jealous of his influence. One reason of his popularity, as a Mahomedan Minister at a Hindu Court, was the liberality of his belief. He was a Sufi,\* a sect held, indeed, as infidel by orthodox Mahomedans, but to

\* The Sufi sect represents the mystical asceticism of Mahomedanism. All over the East its members are more or less numerous. Persia has for many centuries been its head-quarters, while in the Panjab a declared Sufi is rarely to be found. Yet the mystical doctrines of the Sufi are common everywhere. The Hindu Vedanti school of mystical philosophy hardly differs from Sufism except in name; and the principles upon which Guru Nanak founded the Sikh faith are almost identical with those which may be found in the purely Sufi writings of Mahmud, Hafiz or Fakir Azizudin himself.



which the best thinkers and poets of the East have belonged. He had no attachment for the barren dogmata of the Kuran, but looked on all religions as equally to be respected and disregarded. On one occasion Ranjit Singh asked him whether he preferred the Hindu or the Mahomedan religion. "I am," he replied, "a man floating in the midst of a mighty river. I turn my eyes towards the land, but can distinguish no difference in either bank."

Fakir Azizudin was celebrated as the most eloquent man of his day, and he was as able with his pen as with his tongue. The State papers drawn up by him and his brother Nurudin are models of elegance and good taste, according to the Oriental standard. He was himself a ripe scholar in all branches of Eastern learning, and also was a generous and discriminating patron of learning. At Lahore he founded at his own expense a College for the study of Persian and Arabic, and to this institution very many of the Arabic scholars of the Panjab owe their education.

As a poet, Azizudin must be allowed a high place. His Persian poems, of the mystical character which the Sufis affect, are often very beautiful, and are distinguished by simplicity and great elegance of style. A few stanzas, literally translated, are inserted here to show, in some measure, the character of Sufi religious poetry :—

If you attentively regard the world  
 You will find it fugitive as a shadow ;  
 Why should you vex yourself with vain desires  
 When you have no power to perform ?  
 Forget yourself, and leave your work with God ;  
 Trust yourself with all confidence to Him.  
 Wait with patience until He shall bless you,  
 And thank Him for what He has already given.  
 Stop your ears from the sound of earthly care ;  
 Rejoice in God, and be hopeful of His mercy.

The wise would consider me as an idolater  
 Should I thoughtlessly speak of myself as 'I' ;  
 To the wise and to those who most nearly know,  
 It is a folly for any mortal to assert 'I am' ;  
 Although able to vanquish Sābrab, Zal and Rostam,  
 Yet at the last your stability is but as water.  
 It is a vain thought that your reason may spin  
 Her imaginings, as a spider spins her web.  
 It is well that I should breathe the air of freedom,  
 For I know that everything is dependent upon God.

Only one of Fakir Azizudin's six sons is now living. Shahdin, who died in 1842, was in 1836 appointed Agent with the British Political officer at Ludhiana, and two years later was appointed Wakil at Firozpur. Fakir Charagudin was in 1838 made Governor of Jasrota, and shortly afterwards was placed in attendance on Prince Kharak Singh. He succeeded his brother as Wakil at Firozpur in 1842, and was afterwards attached to the Council of Regency in the same capacity. Jamaludin entered the service of the English Government as Tahsildar of Hafizabad. He was then transferred to Gujaranwala, and in 1864 was appointed Mir Munshi of the Panjab Secretariat.

Nasirudin, the eldest son of Fakir Azizudin, was murdered, when quite a youth, in 1814. A Purbeah sepoy, who had been dismissed by Fakir Imamudin for some fault, determined upon revenge, and came to Lahore to the shop of Ghulam Mohaiudin and asked to be treated for some alleged disorder. Young Nasirudin, who used to assist his grandfather, took the sepoy into an inner room, when he drew his sword and cut the boy down. Ghulam Mohaiudin ran up, hearing the cries of his grandson, but the room was locked. He, however, broke the door down with an axe and rushed upon the murderer, whom he disarmed, not without receiving severe wounds himself, and threw him from the window into the street, where he was torn to pieces by the infuriated mob. Nasirudin lingered a few days and then died.

Charagudin was the only one of Azizudin's sons to leave any family, and the fate of Sarajudin, his eldest son, was as tragical as that of Nasirudin. This young man was in the employ of Bahawal Khan, the Nawab of Bahawalpur, who was succeeded by his favourite son Sadik Mahomed Khan. The new Prince wished to put to death his brother Haji Khan, whom he found in prison; but Sarajudin and the Daudputras took his part and, raising an insurrection in



his favour, placed him upon the throne. In gratitude for this, Haji Khan made Sarajudin his Minister, and his brother Shah Nawaz Khan Commander-in-Chief. No long time afterwards, however, Sarajudin quarrelled with Azad Khan, the maternal uncle of the Nawab, who took his relative's part, and Sarajudin prepared to leave Bahawalpur. But the Nawab sent several Sayads to him, who swore on the Kuran that no injury was intended him, and he then resolved to remain. But two or three days later the house was surrounded by troops, and Sarajudin was informed that he was a prisoner and must consent to be placed in irons. He refused to submit except to force, and the house was at last stormed. The brothers defended themselves gallantly, but they were almost unarmed. The principal officer Sarajudin killed with his own hand, and was then shot dead himself. Shah Nawaz Khan was captured, severely wounded, and was thrown into prison, where he remained eight months, until ransomed by his father for Rs. 80,000.

During the life of Fakir Azizudin his brothers played subordinate parts; but some account must be given of them here, as both were men of some importance. Fakir Imamudin was during a great portion of Ranjit Singh's reign custodian of the celebrated fort of Govindgarh\* at Amritsar, and Governor of the country immediately surrounding it. With this he had charge of the magazine, arsenals and royal stables. His occupations at Amritsar did not allow him to perform much service in the field; but he was one of the force sent to reduce the forts of Mai Sada Kaur and the Kanhyas, and also served in one or two other minor Campaigns. He died in 1844 leaving one son, Tajudin, who had shared

\* The first Thanadar or Governor of Govindgarh was Hardar Shamir Singh of Thethar, Lahore. He rebuilt the fort, in a great measure, under Ranjit Singh's orders. After Shamir Singh, Fakir Imamadin was appointed, who with his son Tajudin held the fort till the reign of Maharaja Sher Singh. Sabha Singh of Baghrian was then nominated, and remained Governor till 1842, when Surmakh Singh, a Brahman of Batala, was appointed. This man allowed Derin Khan, a State prisoner, to escape, and he was consequently superseded by Shamsudin, son of Fakir Nuradin, in 1847.

with him the charge of Govindgarh, and who survived him only two years.

Fakir Nurudin neither possessed the ability nor the courage of his brother Azizudin, whom in many points he much resembled. His early life was passed in devotion, till, in 1810, Ranjit Singh, who had taken a great fancy to Azizudin, sent for Nurudin to his Darbar and gave him the district of Dhani to superintend. He acquitted himself well, and was then sent to Gujrat, where he had some difficulty in reducing the Chibs to obedience. In 1812 Jalandhar was placed under him, and the next year Sialkot, Daska, Halowal and Wazirbad. In 1818 he was summoned to Lahore, and henceforward his duties were generally about the Court. These duties were multifarious and responsible. He was in charge of the arsenal at the fort, of the royal gardens and palaces. He was Almoner to the Maharaja, and dispensed the royal bounty to deserving applicants. He kept one key of the Royal Treasury, the Moti Mandar; the two other keys being in charge of Misar Beli Ram and Diwan Hukman Singh.

In 1826 Nurudin was sent to reduce the country around Pind Dadan Khan, and in 1831 he proceeded to Sayadpur and Makhad to assist Raja Gulab Singh in his administration of that part of the country. Nurudin was closely associated with his brother Azizudin in the conduct of negotiations with the British Government. Both were lovers of the English, and earnestly desirous that the two States of India and Lahore should always remain on the most friendly terms. On the 19th September 1846, when the Khalsa army had mutinied and required the Rani to give up her brother and the murderers of Prince Peshora Singh to their vengeance, Fakir Nurudin was sent with Diwan Dina Nath and Sardar Atar Singh Kalianwala to endeavour to soothe them. The mission was without result, and Nurudin alone of the Envoys was allowed to return to Lahore without insults and threats.



After the Satlaj War, Nurudin was one of the subscribing witnesses to the Treaty of the 9th March, on the part of the Lahore State; and in December 1846, when Raja Lal Singh, the Wazir, was deposed for treason, Nurudin was appointed one of the Council of Regency to carry on the Government until Maharaja Dalip Singh should arrive at his majority.

Nurudin was not an active Member of the Council, but he was one of the most disinterested; and his advice was generally sound and well considered. He at all times was ready to facilitate matters for the British Resident, while remaining faithful to the interests of his own Government. In 1850 the Supreme Government confirmed to him for life all his jagirs and allowances, amounting to Rs. 20,885 per annum. To his two elder sons, Zahurudin and Shamsudin, were granted cash pensions of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 720, respectively; to the younger, Rs. 540 each. On the death of their father Nurudin in 1852 these allowances were increased to Rs. 1,200, Rs. 400 and Rs. 1,080, respectively.

Fakir Zahurudin was placed with the young Maharaja Dalip Singh as a tutor. He accompanied the Prince to Fatahgarh, and the way in which he fulfilled the duties of the office gave every satisfaction. At the end of 1851 he returned to the Panjab, and was in 1855 appointed Tahsildar of Chunian, and was subsequently transferred to Moga and Lahore. In 1863 he was promoted to the rank of Extra Assistant Commissioner.

Fakir Shamsudin, second son of Nurudin, was Thanadar of the Govindgarh fort during the Second Sikh War. In this position he behaved with great fidelity, and made over the fort to European troops at a time when any hesitation on his part might have produced serious results. In 1850 he was appointed Tahsildar of Shahdara, but was compelled to resign the next year through ill health. In 1862 Shamsudin

was appointed an Honorary Magistrate of the city of Lahore and a Member of the Municipal Committee. He was a man of great energy and liberality. A finished scholar himself, he was ever foremost in any schemes for the advancement of learning, generally among his countrymen. It is very much owing to his exertions that female education has been so generally taken up in Lahore. He also took an active part in the establishment of a Literary Society, the *Anjuman-i-Panjab*, which promises most interesting and valuable results.

Azizudin's sixth son Ruknudin died in 1881 leaving no issue. His pension of Rs. 1,000 per annum lapsed to Government, a provision of Rs. 40 per mensem having been made for his two widows.

Fakir Sayad Jamaludin, the only one now left of Azizudin's sons, was promoted to an Extra Assistant Commissionership in 1870. He was obliged by failing health to retire in 1883 on a pension of Rs. 100 per mensem, which he enjoys in addition to his political allowance of Rs. 1,000. As Sub-Registrar at Lahore he receives a salary of Rs. 2,000 per annum. He was appointed to this office in 1881; and in the year following he was made an Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioner, exercising full magisterial powers. He is also a Fellow of the Panjab University. He has no children.

Marajudin, only son of Tajudin, married a daughter of Sayad Kasim Shah of Lahore, and had a son, Saidudin, born to him in 1878. He enjoys an allowance of Rs. 500 per annum, and his father's widow has a life pension of Rs. 360 per annum. Pensions to the extent of Rs. 1,680 to other female members of the family have lapsed from time to time.

Fakir Zahnrudin retired in 1883 after a service of twenty-seven years on a pension of Rs. 315 per mensem, which he enjoys in addition to the family allowance of Rs. 1,200 per annum. He received a grant of five hundred acres of



waste land in Gujranwala in 1877. His only son, Tahsildar Naobaharudin, died in 1880 at the age of thirty-five years. His daughter married in 1877 Sayad Zafarudin, son of Fakir Kamrudin, a Deputy Inspector of Police in the Panjab.

The late Naobaharudin has left two sons, Iftakharudin, born 1865, and Iktadarudin, born 1872.

Fakir Shamsudin died in 1872 leaving three sons. The eldest, Burhanudin commenced life as a Pleader in 1866. In the following year he became a Naib-Tahsildar, and soon rose to be Tahsildar and a Superintendent of Settlements. He was promoted to an Extra Assistant Commissionership in 1882. Four years later his services were placed at the disposal of the Bhopal State and he was employed as Naib-Wazir-i-Mal (Assistant Revenue Minister) on a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem. In January 1888 the title of Khan Bahadar was conferred upon him under Viceregal Sanad in recognition of his meritorious services. He had been confirmed after his father's death as holding in perpetuity a jagir of about nine hundred acres of land in Rakh Raiwind Kadim, Tahsil Lahore; and the proprietary rights in this plot were formally ceded to him by Government in 1885. He is at present employed as an Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Panjab. Burhanudin has no children. He married the daughter of Sayad Najib Ali Bakhari of Kanga Gil, Batala, Gurdaspur.

Shamsudin's second son, Zainalabudin, became a Pleader in 1866, and is still practising. He married twice, one of his wives being the daughter of Shekh Shabrati, a Lahore merchant, but has no children living.

Fakir Shabahudin, third son of Shamsudin, is a Naib-Tahsildar, having for short periods held the offices of District Inspector of Schools at Lahore and Darogha of the Ravi ferries.

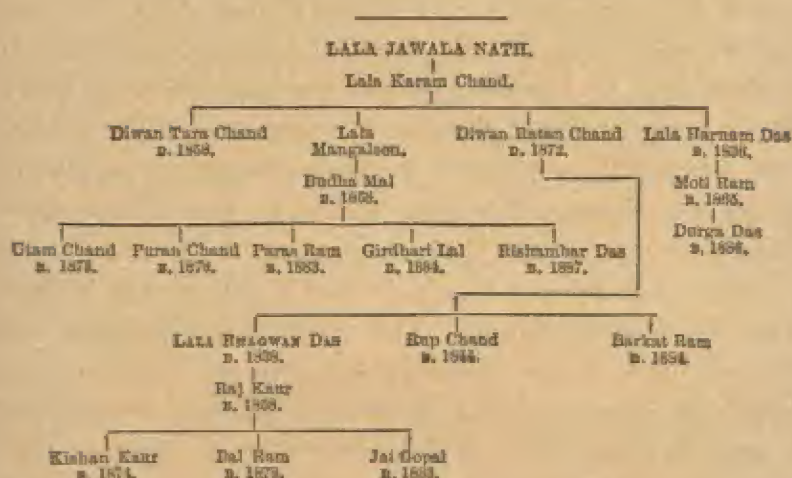
Fakir Kamrudin, third son of Nurudin, is an Honorary Magistrate at Lahore. He has in this and other capacities rendered excellent service. In 1882 a khilat of Rs. 500 was conferred upon him by Sir Robert Egerton, Lieutenant-Governor, and in the same year he was granted proprietary rights in seven hundred ghumaos of waste land in the Lahore Tahsil, wherewith he founded a village, naming it Jalalabad, after his second son. The jagir rights in this village were granted to him in 1887, with succession to his son Jalaludin. He is a Member of the Municipal Committee of Lahore and of the District Board. The title of Khan Bahadar was conferred upon Fakir Sayad Kamrudin in 1887 on the occasion of Her Imperial Majesty's Jubilee celebration. His son Zafarudin is a Police Inspector at Gujrat. His second son Jalaludin is being educated at the Aitchison College as a nominee of Sir Charles Aitchison, who presented the institution with a scholarship valued at Rs. 300 per annum.

Fakir Hafizudin, fourth son, is a pensioner, having retired in 1886 after serving many years as a Tahsildar in the Panjab. He lost his only son, Ikbaludin in 1881.

Of the five sons of Charagudin, only Sarajudin had issue, namely two sons, Firozudin and Hasanudin.



## LALA BHAGWAN DAS DHARIWALA.



The family of Ratan Chand Dhariwala came originally from Payal, a village situated between Ludhiana and Patiala, and held various revenue appointments under the Mahomedan Emperors. When the Sikhs rose to power, Jawala Nath entered the service of Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia as a Munshi, and remained with him and his son Mahan Singh till his death. Karam Chand was first employed by Sardar Bishan Singh Kalal, the confidential agent of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who retired in the year 1813 to Banares, where he died. Karam Chand in course of time was promoted to offices of trust under the Maharaja. He accompanied him in 1805 on his secret visit to Hardwar, and the following year was employed as an agent in the arrangements concluded between the Lahore State and the Sikh Chiefs south of the Satlaj. He also assisted in drawing up the Treaty of the 25th April 1809 with the British Government. Some time before, he had been placed at the head of the Lahore office, if that can be called an office where no accounts were regularly kept. Bawani Das first introduced a system of accounts in 1809, from

which time Karam Chand worked under him, and remained in the office till his death in 1836.

His eldest son Tara Chand had entered the service of Government when very young, and his first employment was in Peshawar, under Diwan Karpā Ram, in 1822. He was sent in the following year to Kangra, with civil and military authority, to collect the revenue, and in 1832 was posted at Firozpur to reduce the turbulent inhabitants of that district to order, and to suppress dacoity, which had become very common. Tara Chand was afterwards made Diwan, and placed in charge of Bannu, Tank and Derah Ismail Khan. His administration here was not very successful. Of all the frontier Chiefs, no one was more hostile to the Sikhs than Dilasa Khan of Bannu. Diwan Tara Chand, who had with him the flower of the Sikh chivalry, the Chiefs of Atari, Majithia, Naka and Botala, led his force of eight thousand men and twelve guns against the little fort of Dilasa Khan; but was ignominiously repulsed with a loss of three hundred killed, including the younger Jai Singh Atariwala, and five hundred wounded. When the Maharaja heard of this repulse he was very indignant and fined the Diwan Rs. 7,000. Tara Chand also quarrelled with Raja Suchet Singh, who was in authority in the Derajat, and who could not endure the Diwan's independent spirit; so Tara Chand, making a virtue of necessity, and pleading ill-health and his desire to make his peace with heaven, left the Panjab in 1838 for Banares, where he died in 1858.

Mangalsen, the second son of Karam Chand, was Commandant in a cavalry regiment under the Darbar. After annexation he received a pension of Rs. 480 a year. He died in November 1864 leaving one son, Lala Budha Mal.

Ratan Chand was a great favourite of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and, when quite a boy, used to be in constant attendance at Court. When the first down began to grow upon his



lip and chin, Ranjit Singh gave him the nickname of Dhariwala or 'the bearded,' to distinguish him from Ratan Chand Dogal, who was four years younger, and who had consequently no beard at all. He was in 1829 appointed to the Postal Department on Rs. 200 a month, with certain assignments from the revenue of Peshawar and Hazara. He remained in this department during the reign of Ranjit Singh and his successors, and under the Darbar was in the enjoyment of cash allowances to the amount of Rs. 2,610 and jagirs in Dinanagar, Khanowal, Yuhianagar, Tiwan, Bhindan, Hazara and Peshawar, worth Rs. 13,600. Ratan Chand happened to be in the Lahore fort when the Sindhanwalia Chiefs seized it, and Raja Hira Singh, believing him their accomplice, fined him Rs. 30,000. This money was given back by Sardar Jawahir Singh after Hira Singh's death. After the Satlaj Campaign Ratan Chand was appointed Postmaster General in the Panjab, and did excellent service throughout the rebellion of 1848-49. His department had at this time to contend with great difficulties, but the Postmaster General's energy and ability enabled him to surmount them. On the annexation of the Panjab certain of his jagirs, amounting to Rs. 6,800, were released to him for life, free of all service, and a garden worth Rs. 200 near the Shahalami gate of Lahore was released to his male heirs in perpetuity. Ratan Chand was appointed an Honorary Magistrate of the city of Lahore in 1862 and Member of the Municipal Committee. He was one of the most active and intelligent of the Honorary Magistrates; and through his liberality the city of Lahore has been much embellished. The most striking of the public works constructed by him is the fine Sarai and tank near the Shahalami gate. He also had a large share in the formation of the public gardens round the city; and whenever money has been required for any work of public utility, Ratan Chand has shown himself liberal in the extreme. He

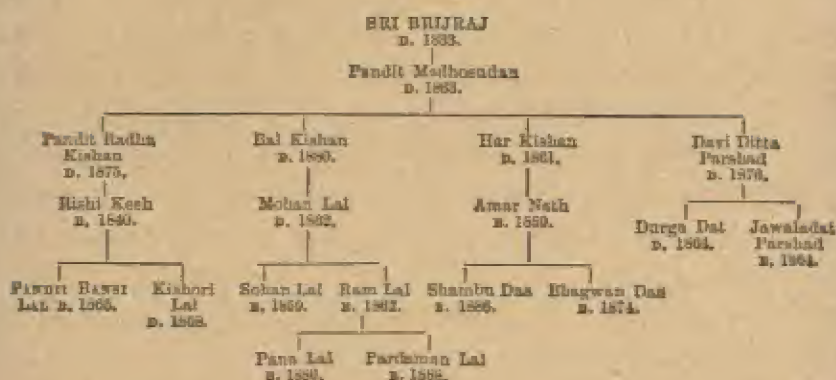
was created a Diwan by the Supreme Government in January 1865. He died in 1872.

His eldest son, Lala Bhagwan Das, received a jagir grant under Sanad dated 7th January 1874, valued at Rs. 2,585. He is an Honorary Magistrate of Lahore and a Member of the District Board and Municipal Committee. His public services have on several occasions been recognized by Government; he takes a keen interest in all matters connected with the welfare of the city, and is a gentleman of public and enlightened spirit. He has erected several buildings, including a *Thakardwara* on the edge of a fine tank made by his father.

Diwan Ratan Chand's younger brother Harnam Das is a Munsif in the Firozpur district. His name is on the list of accepted candidates for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner. His son Moti Ram has passed the Entrance Examination of the Panjab University.



## PANDIT BANSI LAL.



The traditions of this Brahman family go back to the year 1244 when Alaudin Masud was King of Dehli. In this year, on account of the persecutions suffered at the hands of the Mahomedans, the whole family emigrated, with other Hindus, from the sacred city of Mathra to Uch near Multan. This new home was singularly chosen and could hardly have been a pleasanter residence than Mathra, as at this very time, according to Ferishta, it was overrun by an army of Moghals from Kandahar. Some time afterwards the family settled at Lahore, but when happier times came round returned to its old home at Mathra. One ancestor of Radha Kishan, by name Narain Das, was celebrated for his learning and piety, and is mentioned in the *Bhagatmal* or 'Fakir's Necklace' of *Nabhaji*. A firman of the Emperor Jahangir, granting to Kishan Lal, great-grandson of Narain Das, twenty-four bigas of land at Mathra for the purpose of growing the flowers used in Hindu worship, is still extant. This document has every mark of being genuine, and bears the date 1610 A.D.

Brij Bhukan, son of Kishori Lal, was the very Diogenes of Brahmans. The Emperor Shah Jahan, hearing of his piety, paid him a visit, and was so pleased at his derivation of the

word Hindu, from 'hin,' an abbreviation of 'Hinsa,' Sans. *sin*, and *du*, abbreviation of 'dur,' Sans. and Pers. *far*, 'far from sin,' that he desired the Brahman to ask any favour of him and it should be granted. "Do me then the favour," said Brij Bhukan, "of never paying me another visit."

During the reign of Aurangzeb, Kawal Nain, the youngest son of Brij Bhukan, went to Jaipur, at the invitation of Raja Jai Singh I. Here he obtained the charge of a temple, with a jagir for its support, which is still held by his descendants. Bansidhar his grandson was a man of great piety, and numbered among his disciples Suraj Mal, the famous Raja of Bhartpur.

Brijraj, or as he was generally called Brijlal, settled in Lahore about the middle of the last century. He was very much respected by the Bhangi Chiefs, who were then rulers of the city; and when Ranjit Singh rose to power he was made Pandit, and appointed to read and explain the sacred Sanscrit books. He held this office, remaining in high favour with the Maharaja till his death in 1833. Like his father, Pandit Madhosudan was a great scholar, and there was no other Pandit in Lahore who had so extensive an acquaintance with Sanscrit literature. In 1808 he was appointed *Dana Dhaksh*, or Almoner to the Maharaja, and chief Darbar Pandit, both which offices he held till the annexation. Madhosudan married the daughter of Misar Batalia, the great Amritsar banker. He was a great favourite of the Maharaja, who in 1824 appointed his son Radha Kishan tutor to the young Raja Hira Singh, whose after-life, mean, sensual and untrue, did not certainly say much for his education.

Radha Kishan, who was, like his father, a Darbar Pandit, was in 1846 appointed to superintend the education of the young Maharaja Dalip Singh.

Pandit Madhosudan held under the Sikh Government jagirs of the value of Rs. 9,935. One village, Kila Gujar



Singh, had been granted by Ranjit Singh as a 'Dharamath' to Brijlal and his heirs for ever. The other villages included in the estate were grants to Pandit Madhosudan himself. These were, in 1851, released for life, and two gardens at Lahore and Dinanagar granted in perpetuity.

Pandit Madhosudan died in 1863. With his three elder sons he had violently quarrelled, and he consequently left his entire property, with the perpetual jagir, to Davi Dita Parshad, his fourth son by a second wife. This disposition was contested by the other heirs in the Civil Courts. Ultimately however the matter was compromised. Davi Dita Parshad retained all the patrimony with the exception of the jagir revenue, which was divided equally amongst all the sons, the share of each being Rs. 165 per annum.

Har Kishan died before his father, in 1861, leaving one son, Amar Nath. His jagir of Rs. 900 lapsed; a life pension of Rs. 180 per annum being continued to his widow.

Of the jagir of Pandit Radha Kishan, amounting to Rs. 5,270, Rs. 4,700 were released for life, and a garden yielded Rs. 100 per annum in perpetuity.

Radha Kishan died in 1875. He was well known and was much respected. His exertions in the cause of education have been great. He was one of the first to advocate female education, and when the American Mission opened an English School at Lahore his sons were among the first pupils. He sent one of them to study at the Lahore Medical College, when the prejudices against it were still strong. The Pandit was a distinguished Sanscrit scholar, well versed in Hindu Law. When the Panjab University was founded Pandit Radha Kishan set himself out to proclaim its merits throughout the different States of the Panjab, and was thus instrumental in securing large donations from most of the Chiefs. In recognition of these special services and of his scholarly attainments,

the Pandit was made a Member of the Senate and was appointed one of the Board of Examiners in Sanscrit; and the Sanscrit Text Society of London conferred upon him the honour of Membership. He published a Sanscrit Grammar, a Manual of Hindu Medicine and other learned works. The Pandit was held in the highest esteem by the late Sir Donald McLeod, who in 1868 addressed him in the following terms:—  
“You may rest assured there is no gentleman in the Province whose interests I shall ever feel more desirous of promoting than yours, nor any whom I consider more deserving of the favour of Government in recognition of your unswerving loyalty, public spirit and strenuous exertions to promote every cause conducive to the public weal.”

Sir Donald McLeod's certificate of the Pandit's merits is worthy of record. It is dated 22nd August 1870. “Pandit Radha Kishan is one of the worthiest, most respected and most valuable of the citizens of Lahore. He is a man of learning, and has done much to promote the interests of Oriental learning. It was a letter addressed by him to the Viceroy which led to the adoption by Government of more strenuous and systematic measures for the preservation and collection of manuscripts than was formerly the case. He is a correspondent of Professor Goldstücker, through whom he has presented valuable manuscripts to the Sanscrit Text Society, and he has been a most hearty and useful promoter of the Panjab University College movement. He has creditably assisted the officers of Government at all times in educational matters; he has taken an especially active interest in the cause of female education; and on no occasion has he been found wanting, when any opportunity has been afforded him, of assisting in matters calculated to promote the public good.”

Professor Goldstücker, who received a catalogue of the contents of the Pandit's Sanscrit Library, expressed his sur-



prise at its "magnificence and richness ; many of its works being utterly unknown in Europe." In 1884 the Local Government confirmed his proprietary right in two thousand acres in the Chunian Tahsil to his son Rishi Kesh, he having fulfilled the condition of bringing one-half under cultivation within fifteen years of the grant. The Pandit has made a garden in this village (Kot Radha Kishan) on the line of railway between Lahore and Multan, and he has built a commodious bungalow with out-offices and a fine tank, and in other ways greatly improved his property. To Pandit Rishi Kesh was continued for life a jagir income of Rs. 1,200, the remainder having lapsed upon the death of Radha Kishan. He held in addition the village of Kot Radha Kishan already mentioned, yielding a rental of about six thousand rupees.

Pandit Rishi Kesh joined the Board of Honorary Magistrates at Lahore in 1878. He was appointed a Member of the Municipal Committee in 1870, and succeeded his father in the Senate of the Panjab University. Much of his time was devoted to the public service; and his family possess many testimonials in the form of Sanads from Government acknowledging his assistance on various occasions. He died in 1888, much regretted by all classes.

His eldest son, Pandit Bansi Lal, will no doubt maintain the good name of the family. His father's jagir was of life tenure, and the question of its continuance to the sons is pending.

## RASALDAR SAWAN MAL.



The family of Misar Rup Lal is of the Brahman caste, and came originally from Mouza Dilwal in the Jhilm district. Diwan Chand came with his sons to Lahore about the year 1809, and through the interest of his uncle Basti Ram, who was the Treasurer of Ranjit Singh and held by him in great esteem, obtained a jagir of Rs. 1,000 for himself at Kahun, Jhilm, and places at Court for his two eldest sons Rup Lal and Beli Ram, who were made assistants to their great-uncle in the Treasury. Beli Ram soon became a great favourite with the Maharaja, and on the death of Basti Ram in 1816 was appointed his successor, in spite of the opposition and ill-will of the Minister Raja Dhian Singh, who wished Jasa Misar,\* a *protégé* of his own, and father of Lal Singh (afterwards Raja), to obtain the vacant post of *Toshakhania*, or Treasurer. Misar Meghraj

\* Jasa Misar was first employed by Basti Ram as a writer on five rupees a month in the Treasury. He gradually rose in the department, and the post of custodian of the Kashmir Treasury, which Dhian Singh procured for him, attached him to the Dogra party.



received about the same time charge of the treasure in the Govindgarh fort at Amritsar, and he held this office during the remainder of the Maharaja's reign. In 1826 Ram Kishan entered the Government service, and was made Chamberlain to Ranjit Singh, who always treated him with special kindness.

In 1832 Misar Rup Lal was appointed Nazim or Governor of the Jalandhar Doab. This rich district had been ever since its first conquest by Ranjit Singh entrusted to Diwan Mohkam Chand, Moti Ram his son, and Karpa Ram his grandson. In 1831, when Diwan Moti Ram was recalled, Shekh Ghulam Mohaiudin, a follower of Diwan Karpa Ram, and a tyrannical and grasping man, was sent as Governor of Hushiarpur and the neighbouring districts. The people of the Doab complained so bitterly of his oppression that, in 1832, he was recalled, and Misar Rup Lal sent in his place. The new Governor was of a very different character from his predecessor. Possessing considerable wealth himself he had no inducement to oppress the people, and being connected with a Jalandhar family he had an interest in the prosperity of the district. His assessment was so light and equitable that, even in the famine year of 1833, there were very few unpaid balances. He would never accept the smallest present, and kept a close watch upon the conduct of his subordinates. It is refreshing, among the many Sikh Governors, who have considered the people under them as created for their private profit, to meet with a man like Misar Rup Lal, upright and just, whose name is remembered to this day by the people with respect and affection. Rup Lal held the Jalandhar Governorship till 1839, when, some months after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, he was recalled, and the old oppressor of the Doab, Ghulam Mohaiudin, restored. Prince Nao Nahal Singh, indignant with Misar Beli Ram for having supported his father's favourite Chet Singh, threw

him and his brothers into prison, where they remained six months till, at the intercession of Maharaja Kharak Singh, they were released. Beli Ram was a zealous supporter of Prince Sher Singh who, when he ascended the throne, restored the Misar to his old post of Toshakhania. Rup Lal he made Governor of Kalanaur and the lands of the Lahore State south of the Satlaj, with orders to resume the fort and domain of Bhartpur from Jamadar Khushal Singh. Misar Meghraj returned to Govindgarh as Treasurer. Beli Ram was much in the confidence of Maharaja Sher Singh and, in conjunction with his friend Bhai Gurmukh Singh, tried to form a party at Lahore against Raja Dhian Singh, the obnoxious Dogra Minister. His intrigues cost him his life; for when Raja Hira Singh succeeded his murdered father as Minister, one of his first acts was to arrest Bhai Gurmukh Singh, Beli Ram and his brothers. Misar Meghraj and Rup Lal were placed in charge of Misar Lal Singh, their old enemy; and Bhai Gurmukh Singh, Beli Ram and Ram Kishan were made over to Shekh Imamudin Khan, who imprisoned them in the stables attached to his house. For a long time their fate was uncertain; but it at length transpired that all three were secretly murdered by the Shekh, acting under Raja Hira Singh's orders. Rup Lal and Meghraj, more fortunate, remained in confinement till the fall of Raja Hira Singh in December 1844, when they were released, and Rup Lal was made by the Minister Jawahir Singh Governor of Jasrota. The sons of Beli Ram, who escaped to Ludhiana at the time of their father's arrest, remained under British protection till 1845, when they returned to the Panjab.

Rup Lal was at Jasrota in 1846 when that country was made over to Raja Gulab Singh by the Treaty of the 16th March. The Raja vehemently accused him of treason in not yielding up the hill forests in accordance with the terms of the Treaty. He was accordingly removed by the Darbar from Jasrota and placed



in charge of Rhotas and Jhilam, and was there when the rebellion broke out. He joined Sardar Chatar Singh's camp through compulsion, he himself asserts; but his sympathies were certainly with the insurgents, and there is every reason to believe that he supplied them with money. His sons also left Lahore at this critical time and joined their father. For this conduct his jagirs and property in Lahore were confiscated. He died in September 1865, upwards of eighty years of age, at Dilwal in the Jhilam district. His son Sawan Mal was a Rasaldar in the 1st Sikh Cavalry. He served with great credit in Oudh and China, and in 1861 received a jagir of Rs. 400, of which one half will descend to his heirs for one generation. The revenue of these jagir lands (situated in the villages of Jaloh, Kara Dogra and Yakipur in the Lahore Tahsil) has lately risen in value to Rs. 817 per annum. He was also granted one thousand ghumaos of land in Tahsil Hafizabad, Gujaranwala, on payment of a nazarana of Rs. 2,750. Sardar Sawan Mal is at present serving in the 11th Bengal Lancers. As eldest surviving son of the late Misar Rup Lal he is regarded as the leading member of the family. One of his sons, Bishan Das, was for a short time a Dafadar in his father's regiment, but was obliged to resign owing to bad health.

Misar Sundar Das, who was for two years Keeper of the Privy Purse to Maharaja Dalip Singh, received after annexation a donation of Rs. 1,000; his jagir of Rs. 1,500, which was a recent grant of Raja Lal Singh, being resumed.

Misar Mahesh Das, elder brother of Sardar Sawan Mal was for some years a Naib Tahsildar, and died childless at Lahore in 1882. Govind Ram, his younger brother, is the District Treasurer of Shahpur and Gujrat. Govind Ram's eldest son Mathra Das is a clerk in the English office of the Deputy Commissioner, Shahpur.

Misar Ram Das enjoys a life pension of Rs. 2,000 per annum. His brother Thakar Das was Government Treasurer

for the districts of Rawalpindi, Jhīlam, Gujranwala, Lahore, Amritsar, Sialkot and Gurdaspur. He held a jagir valued at Rs. 1,387, which passed to his three sons on his death in 1879. The eldest, Lachman Das, held the Treasuries of Rawalpindi and Jhīlam until 1882. He and his brother Ram Labhaya held in lease a plot of 2,588 ghumaos of land in Chak Kot Miana, Tahsil Bahra, Shahpur; and a proposition is now before Government for granting them the proprietary rights thereof in perpetuity. The share of Thakar Das's son Gauri Shankar in the joint family jagir was resumed at his death in 1884. A pension of Rs. 1,387, granted to Misarani Gulab Davi, widow of Beli Ram, was in like manner resumed in 1875. His second widow, Misarani Begam is still alive, enjoying a pension of Rs. 1,387 per annum.

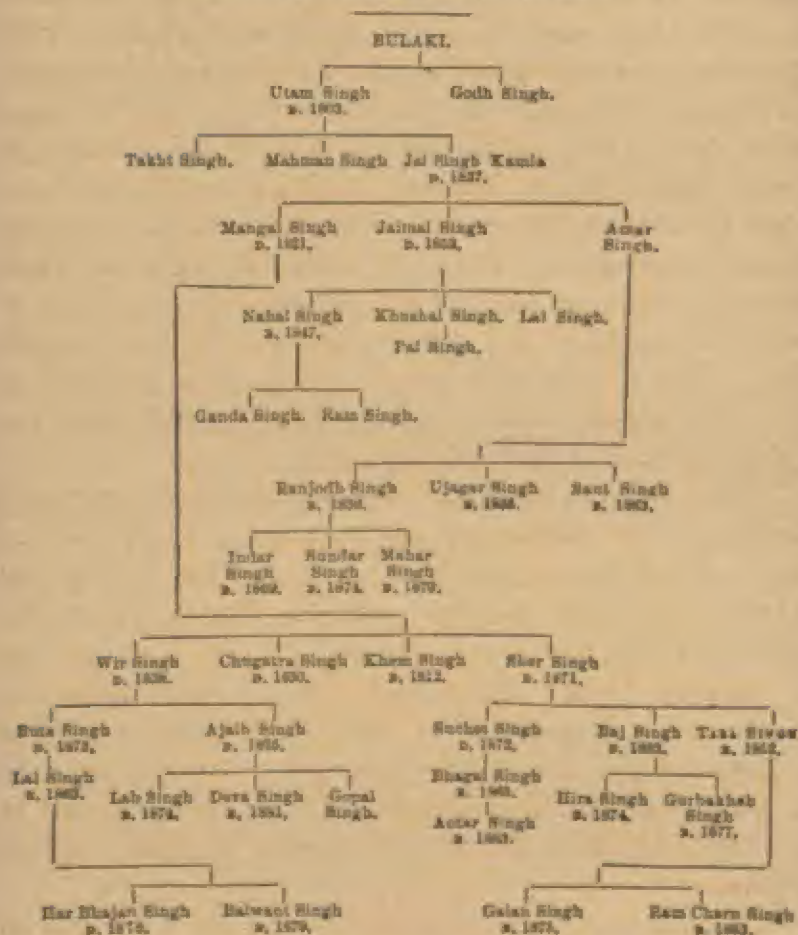
Misar Meghraj was after the Satlaj Campaign appointed Treasurer to the Darbar, and on the occasion of the visit of the Governor-General to Lahore he received the title of Rai Bahadar. In 1849 he was appointed Treasurer of the Lahore Division, a post which he held till his death on the 1st August 1864. Misar Meghraj had been appointed an Honorary Magistrate in 1862; and there were few in Lahore more deservedly respected. At the time of his death he was in enjoyment of jagirs to the value of Rs. 3,825, of which Rs. 405 descend to his male heirs in perpetuity.

Misar Meghraj was succeeded by his son Sheo Das as Treasurer of five districts in the Panjab. In addition to the perpetual jagir of Rs. 405 Misar Sheo Das enjoyed a grant in life tenure valued at Rs. 5,000 per annum. The charge of the Treasuries passed over to other members of the family on his death in 1875. The perpetual jagir has devolved on his minor sons Jata Shankar and Lachmi Narain.

Two members of the family, Misar Ram Das and Misar Sundar Das, are on the Viceregal Darbar List.



SARDAR TARA SINGH KAMLA.



all. The Rajputs, thinking they were about to be attacked, and frightened by the apparent audacity of the besieged, fled, and Sardar Hari Singh, when he heard of this needless destruction of the horses, said : " This Godh Singh is a perfect *Kamla* (idiot). This uncomplimentary cognomen has since remained attached to him and the family.

Godh Singh and his brother fought under the Bhangi Chiefs against Ranjit Deo, Sansar Chand of Katoch and the Sukarchakias, and on the death of Godh Singh, without issue, Utam Singh succeeded to the estate; but both he and his two elder sons died soon afterwards, and Jai Singh became the head of the family. His jagirs were increased by Sardar Gulab Singh Bhangi to Rs. 50,000; and when that Chief died in 1800, Jai Singh joined Ranjit Singh, then lately master of Lahore. He was a good soldier and fought bravely in many campaigns, and received additional jagirs worth Rs. 40,000 in Shekhopura, Sidhni and Bhaowal. In 1817, becoming too old for active service, the Maharaja appointed him Judge at Amritsar, resuming all but Rs. 16,000 of his jagir, and granting him a cash allowance of Rs. 8,000. Jai Singh died in 1827. Of his sons, Mangal Singh had been killed at Mankera in 1821, and his jagirs of Rs. 9,000 had been continued to his son Wir Singh. Jaimal Singh, the second son, had also acquired a separate estate of Rs. 8,000; but on his father's death both his and the jagirs of his nephew were resumed, and in their stead the Maharaja granted Jai Singh's estate, less the village of Rasulpur in the Cis-Satlaj States, which was worth Rs. 3,000. Amar Singh, the third son of Jai Singh, received an annuity of Rs. 800, while the three younger sons of Mangal Singh were provided for; Chugatra Singh being made Rasaldar in General Ventura's Brigade, and Khem Singh and Sher Singh receiving the village of Pati in Sialkot, with a cash allowance. When Wir Singh died in 1839 half his estate was resumed, and the



remainder divided between his brother and his son Buta Singh. Jaimal Singh was Commandant in the Charyari Horse, and served under Raja Suchet Singh on the frontier and elsewhere. At annexation Rs. 2,000 of his jagir were maintained for his life. Sher Singh and Buta Singh joined the rebels in 1848 and lost everything; and the Rs. 4,000 jagir of Khem Singh, whose conduct was suspicious, was reduced to Rs. 1,000. On the death of Jaimal Singh his sons received a pension of Rs. 666, which they still hold.

Sardar Buta Singh was in receipt of an annual pension of Rs. 240 until his death in 1874. He was a Zaildar in his Ilaka. A grant of Rs. 50 per annum was made to his widow, who is still alive. Of the Sardar's three sons, Lal Singh, surviving, took service as a Dafadar in the old 16th Bengal Cavalry, but retired on the breaking up of that regiment. He now lives at Manhala and is a Member of the Kasur Local Board. He married into the Bagawalia (Gurdaspur) family. Sardar Sher Singh took service in 1857 as a Naib Rasaldar under Colonel Voyle in the Hyderabad Contingent. He behaved with great gallantry throughout the disturbances in Oudh and was made Rasaldar and Sardar Bahadar. He also received a jagir valued at three thousand rupees per annum in the district of Baraich. On the return of peace he resigned the service and paid a visit to England. He died in 1871. His son Sardar Tara Singh served as Jamadar with the 3rd Cavalry, Hyderabad Contingent, throughout the late Afghan War. He is now at the head of the family and lives at Kala in the Lahore district.

## SARDAR GODAR SINGH MOKAL.



The Mokai family, of the Sindhu Jat caste, rose to considerable power during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Even among the Sikh nobility the family is considered a new one, and it was more by their strength and prowess in battle than by their cleverness that its members gained lands and wealth.

Sundar Singh was a Jat villager, father of seven sons, of whom only the genealogy of two is here given, as the descendants of these alone became distinguished. His only daughter, Kuran, he married to Sardar Lal Singh, a Jagirdar in the vicinity of Pak Patan, who took his brothers-in-law into his service, and they rode behind him in all his maraud-



ing expeditions till their sister, jealous for the influence of her husband, induced him to turn them adrift. Jawant Singh with his cousins came to Lahore and entered the service of Ranjit Singh. For some time they remained unnoticed ; but at the bloody battle of Baisah, fought near Atock, in July 1813, by Diwan Mohkam Chand against the Afghan Wazir, the cousins, six of whom were engaged in the fight, were so conspicuous for bravery and strength that the Maharaja gave them the jagir of Rangilpur, worth Rs. 2,500, and to Jawant Singh, who had specially distinguished himself, five villages in the Gujrat district, valued at Rs. 30,000, subject to the service of one hundred and fifty sowars ; and his brothers were placed under his command. In 1818 he served at Multan, and the next year in Kashmir, where he was severely wounded in the side by a spear. For this wound he received an assignment of Rs. 2,500 per annum out of the Kashmir revenue. The family jagirs at one time reached Rs. 1,35,000, including Rs. 2,000 from the estate of their inhospitable connection Sardar Lal Singh.

After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839, and of Jawant Singh in 1840, the jagirs of the Mokal family remained intact ; those which had been specially assigned to Jawant Singh descending to his two sons Bela Singh and Gurmukh Singh, for the estate had been divided in 1836. Their contingent of two hundred and fifty horsemen was however raised to three hundred, and the brothers were placed under the command of Prince Nao Nahal Singh. They did not get on well together ; the elder suspecting the younger of a desire to obtain not only the larger portion of the jagir, but the Sardarship itself. Raja Hira Singh was Minister at the time, and on a *nazarana* of Rs. 20,000 being paid by Sardar Bela Singh he confirmed him in the Chiefship and jagir, which Gurmukh Singh took so much to heart that he died of vexation shortly afterwards, in 1845. When the First Panjab

War broke out, Sardars Bela Singh and Surjan Singh with two hundred horsemen joined the army, and formed part of the detachment which advanced to Mudki and Firozshahar. They were both present at Sobraon; and Bela Singh, severely wounded in the battle, was drowned in the Satlaj in the vain attempt to ford the river after the bridge of boats had been broken down. For several days his servants searched for his body, but it was never found. When Raja Lal Singh was confirmed as Minister at Lahore, nearly half of Sardar Bela Singh's jagirs were resumed; but there was still left to Surjan Singh estates worth Rs. 63,800, of which Rs. 49,800 were subject to the service of one hundred and sixty-three sowars. Surjan Singh enjoyed this estate up to 1849, when, having with his cousin Khazan Singh joined the national party, it was resumed, with the exception of Rangilpur, worth Rs. 1,000, which had been assigned on the death of Sardar Gurmukh Singh as a provision for his widow and daughter. This was upheld to the widow Ind Kaur. Khazan Singh received a pension of Rs. 450, and Mukadam Singh one of Rs. 72, which they still hold. Sardar Surjan Singh's pension of Rs. 1,200 lapsed at his death in March 1864. His son Chatar Singh, who succeeded him as Lambardar, embraced Mahomedanism in 1879 and changed his name to that of Fateh Din. He has a son, Karim Bakhsh, by a Mahomedan wife. There is considerable ill-will between the two branches of Jawant Singh's family, as it is believed that Sardar Gurmukh Singh lost his life by the witchcraft and incantations of his elder brother.

In 1858 Mana Singh was made a Rasaldar in the Banda Military Police, in which he remained till 1861. In September 1859 he distinguished himself by the manner in which he led his troop against very superior numbers of the enemy, and on this occasion he was wounded in the head, and his horse was wounded under him; but he mounted a fresh horse, and was again foremost in the fight and the

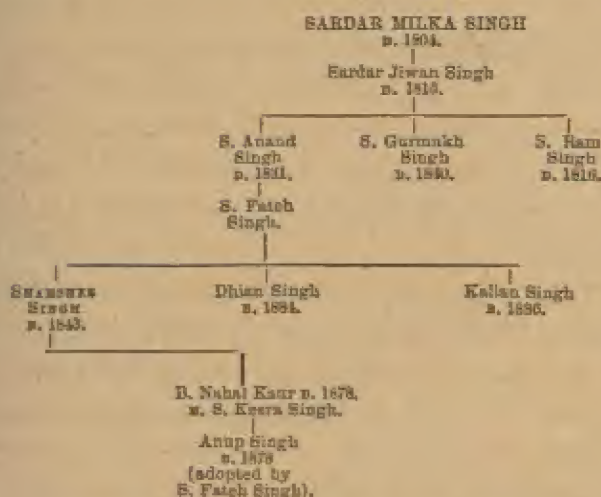


pursuit. In 1861, when he was discharged on the reduction of the Police force, he was made Zaildar or Honorary Police Magistrate of twenty-eight villages in the neighbourhood of Mokāl; and in 1862 he received a grant of seven hundred and twenty acres of waste land in Rakh Mudki near Chunian. Godar Singh was Rasaldar in Hodson's Horse, and served for more than two years with credit. He was discharged when his troop was disbanded in March 1860. When the Chinese War broke out, Godar Singh volunteered his services, but there was no vacancy in Fane's Horse at the time, and they were declined. He received a grant of fifty acres of land in Rakh Mudki at the same time as his cousin Mana Singh. He is Zaildar of Thata Jaloki, Chunian, Lahore. He was given a place in the Provincial Darbar List in succession to Mana Singh in 1884. Mukadam Singh was also a Rasaldar, and on his retirement received a grant of one hundred acres of land and was appointed a Zaildar of Sultanki in the Lahore district. Both his sons are dead. One of them, Kishan Singh, was a Dafadar in the 11th Bengal Lancers.

Mana Singh died in 1884. His son Narain Singh has succeeded him as Zaildar, and Ala Lambardar. He is a Member of the Local Board. Two others of his sons, Partab Singh and Lal Singh, have become Mahomedans. The former is a Zaildar in the Canal Department. Sardar Tej Singh, son of Godar Singh, has also changed his religion, and now calls himself Abdul Rahman. He is employed as a Darogha on the Western Jamna Canal.

Bhudha Singh, the brother of Mana Singh, was a Dafadar in the Banda Police, which he left in 1861 when the force was reduced. The family reside at Mokāl in the Lahore district. They hold half the village in proprietary right, besides three shares in Kila Jaswant Singh, and three hundred acres of land in Sultanki.

## SHAMSHER SINGH THEPURIA.



Sardar Milka Singh was one of the most powerful of the Sikh Chiefs who lived during the latter half of the last century. His native place was Kaleki, near Kasur; but leaving this he founded the village of Thepur (Lahore district) and took possession of Narwar, Jandhir, Dalen and other villages, some in the neighbourhood of Thepur; others in the Gujranwala and Gujrat districts. Not content with these possessions, he marched to the northward and seized Rawalpindi, then an insignificant place inhabited by Rawal mendicants. Milka Singh perceived how admirably Rawalpindi was situated, and fixed his head-quarters there, building new houses and in some measure fortifying the town. Rawalpindi was at this time an undesirable possession. It was on the highway into India, exposed to the attacks of Afghan invaders, and the surrounding country was held by fierce and warlike tribes. But Milka Singh held his own. He conquered a tract of country around Rawalpindi worth three lakhs a year; and even the tribes of Hazara had respect for his name and power. He had adopted the cognomen of Thepuria, from the village he had founded;



but in the north he was known as Milka Singh Pindiwala, and this name still belongs to the family.

He died in 1804. Ranjit Singh, whom Milka Singh had joined in several expeditions, did not feel strong enough to seize the estates of his old friend, whom he used to call *Baba* or grandfather, and was compelled to confirm them to Jiwan Singh, his only son. Of this Sardar there is little to record. He fought during the first Kashmir Campaign of 1814, and died the next year.

Anand Singh, the eldest of Jiwan Singh's three sons, succeeded to a portion of his father's jagirs. The Maharaja resumed Rs. 2,92,000, and left only Rs. 8,000 of the old estate, granting new jagirs to the value of Rs. 42,000 in the Ferozpur district near Zafarwal, subject to the service of one hundred horsemen. Ram Singh, who survived his father only one year, had a jagir assigned to him in Hazara, and Gurmukh Singh received Sultani and Kalri, worth Rs. 2,000, in the Gurdaspur district. The force which Sardars Milka Singh and Jiwan Singh had kept up was transferred to the service of the State and placed under Sardar Atar Singh Sindhanwalia, bearing the name of the Dera Pindiwala, and Gurmukh Singh received an appointment in it. In December 1840, shortly after General Ventura had taken the fort of Kamlagarh in Mandi, the people of Kulu rose in revolt, cut off and annihilated four companies of the Pindiwala, and killed Gurmukh Singh who was in command. Anand Singh died in 1831. His only son Fateh Singh was then a boy of eight years of age, and in 1836 the Maharaja reduced his jagir to Rs. 13,000, subject to the service of twenty horse. The villages which were left were ten in number: Thepur, Kila Sardar Daloki and Kaleki in the Lahore district; Kehli and Raja Tal in Amritsar; Loli, Lohri and Duni in Sialkot; and Kasoki and Samobala in Gujranwala. On the annexation of the Panjab, the personal jagir of Fateh Singh, worth Rs. 3,000,

was confirmed to him for life, one quarter to descend to his sons. Rs. 5,100 were also confirmed to the two widows of Anand Singh and the widows of Gurmukh Singh and Jiwan Singh. These ladies have since died, and their jagir holdings have been resumed.

Sardar Fateh Singh died in 1886. One-fourth of the jagir has been continued to his three sons, Shamsher Singh, Dhian Singh and Kalian Singh. The family are not represented in Darbar.



## SARDAR ATMA SINGH PADHANIA.



One of the principal Jat families of the Manjha is the Sindhu, and to this family Sardar Sadho Singh belongs. Its founder, Sindhu, appears to have been of Rajput origin, but during the thirteenth century emigrated from Ghazni in Afghanistan to the Manjha, where he settled with his family. How his ancestors became first resident in Afghanistan is uncertain; but in all probability they were among the numerous Hindu captives that Sultan Mahmud carried away with him after his Indian expeditions, and a large colony of whom he planted in his new and beautiful capital of Ghazni. Some of the Sindhu Jats assert that it was Ghazni in Southern India from which their ancestor emigrated; but this story is improbable and is entirely unsupported by proof.

Changa, the thirteenth in descent from Sindhu, was an influential Chaudri, and founded, some fifteen miles south-

east of Lahore, the village of Padhania, where the family still resides. He was the chief of the thirty Jat Chaudris and headmen who went on a mission to the Emperor Akbar to arrange the marriage of that monarch with a daughter of Mir Mita Dhariwal, a Zamindar of Dowla Kangra, near Wadni, in the Firozpur district. The Emperor first saw the girl, who was very beautiful, at her village well. She had a pitcher of water on her head, yet contrived to place her foot upon the rope of a refractory and runaway heifer and hold it captive till its owner came up. Akbar was so delighted with this feat of strength and skill that he wished to marry her ; but her father declined the honour, without the consent of his caste. He assembled a committee of seventy-one Lambardars and Chaudris, thirty-five Jats and thirty-six Rajputs, to decide the question. The Rajputs considered the alliance disgraceful ; but the Jats, with Changa at their head, approved of it, and the marriage took place accordingly. Akbar rewarded the thirty-five with lands and honours ; and these were the ancestors of all the Jat families in the Panjab of any consideration ; so much so, that the chief Jat families are called *painti*, thirty-five, and the chief Rajput families *chati*, thirty-six, at the present day. Changa, who from his antecedents might be expected to have been among the chati, was, on the contrary, found in the ranks of the Jats. His family had been so long Jat cultivators that their Rajput prejudices had died away. He was a man of considerable influence, and his son succeeded to his power ; but his grandson Dibawas, during the reign of Jahangir, was degraded from the office of Chaudri for murder.

When the Sikhs rose to power, Sukha Singh, who was then the representative of the family, with his two sons Mit Singh and Sahib Singh, joined the popular faith. Mit Singh entered the service of Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia, and Sabib Singh that of Sardar Gujar Singh of Lahore.



From the Sukarchakia leader Mit Singh received an estate worth Rs. 12,000, and on Mahan Singh's death he followed the fortunes of the young Ranjit Singh, and was with him at the capture of Lahore in 1799. He later accompanied the Kasur expedition and rose high in favour with his master, who gave him many valuable estates. In 1814 he was in command of the rear guard of the army during its retreat from Kashmir. The tribes came down in force, and handled Mit Singh's division very severely and wounded the Sardar himself mortally. Ranjit Singh was much grieved at his loss, and swore to befriend his son Jawala Singh, to whom, accordingly, all his father's possessions were confirmed; and in addition he received a new jagir, worth Rs. 1,25,000, at Haripur Goler in Kangra.

Sardar Jawala Singh was a brave and an able man. He was present at the capture of Multan in 1818, and distinguished himself at Mankera, Teri, Kotkapura and Kashmir; and on one occasion, being in charge of the Atock fort, he gallantly held out, with a few hundred horsemen, against the whole Afghan army. In 1829 he was struck by paralysis; and though he lived till 1835 he was no longer able to serve in the field or to attend at Darbar. His illness is said to have been brought on in the following manner. The troops occupying the Kangra fort had mutinied; and the Maharaja sent Jawala Singh, who was very popular with the army, to induce them to return to their duty. The fort was too strong to reduce, and Jawala Singh was compelled to confine himself to arguments; and, at length, on solemn promises of full pardon, persuaded the mutineers to submit. But the Maharaja cared nothing for the pledged word of Jawala Singh. He put the ringleaders to death, and fined and degraded the other mutineers. This conduct so mortified Jawala Singh, who considered his honour lost, that it brought on the illness from which he never recovered.

There is no one of the Sikh Sardars whose name is more renowned for generosity and munificence than Jawala Singh. The young daughter of his cousin Kahan Singh, who had died in very embarrassed circumstances, Jawala Singh adopted as his own. He gave her a large dowry, and is said to have spent upwards of a lakh of rupees upon her marriage. At the commencement of his last illness he distributed an equally large sum of money among the fakirs and Brahmans. Nor was he less liberal to strangers than to his own family, as the following story will show. When Prince Sher Singh had failed so signally in his administration of Kashmir, the Maharaja looked about for victims upon whom to avenge the failure. Among others, the principal agent of the Prince, Diwan Baisakhi Singh Chamyariwala, was ordered to Lahore. His accounts were declared fraudulent, and he was fined Rs. 1,25,000 without enquiry into the proofs against him. There is no doubt the fine was deserved, for at that time Kashmir was considered by the Sikh officials as a sheep-fold under the protection of the wolves. But the Diwan proclaimed that he was unable to pay the fine. The Maharaja ordered him to be flogged until he should discover where his wealth was concealed. The unhappy wretch was dragged out of the presence, past the *Deorhi* or ante-chamber, where were seated Raja Dhian Singh, Jawala Singh and many other Chiefs. When Diwan Baisakha Singh saw them, he implored their intercession with the Maharaja, and threw himself before them, crying out "I am your cow. Save me!" But no one took the slightest notice of him, except Sardar Jawala Singh. He listened to the whole story, and then had the courage to go before the Maharaja and beg for the remission of the punishment, offering himself to pay the whole fine. Ranjit Singh consented and, being utterly without the power of appreciating a noble and magnanimous action, recovered the fine, to the last rupee, from Jawala Singh, whom, as might have been



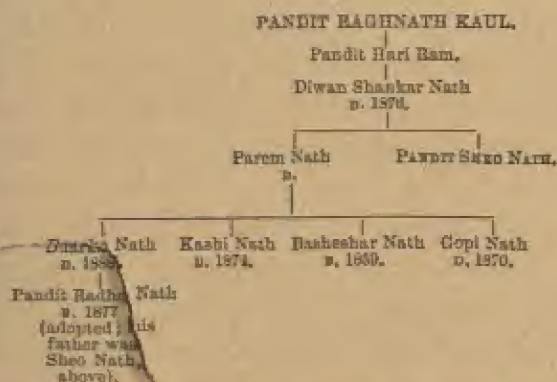
supposed, the Diwan forgot ever to pay. As another instance of his generosity, it may be mentioned that in his ancestral village of Padhanian he never took rent or revenue from any of his own, the Sindhu tribe.

On the death of Jawala Singh, the Maharaja resumed the larger portion of his jagir, for Hardit Singh, the Sardar's only son, was of weak intellect; and although he used to attend at Court, yet he was unable to hold any independent command. He, however, retained estates worth Rs. 27,425, subject to the service of one hundred horsemen. In 1848 this Contingent was in Hazara with Sardar Chatar Singh Atariwala when he rebelled. Most of the men remained true to Government, and on the annexation of the Panjab, Hardit Singh and his mother were allowed to retain an estate worth Rs. 9,000 per annum.

In 1860 Hardit Singh died, leaving one son, Sadho Singh, who died at the age of fifteen years while still a student in the Lahore College. The present head of the family is Sardar Atma Singh, son of Kahan Singh. He lives at Padhanian, and is an Honorary Magistrate with jurisdiction in fifty-two villages. He was lately created a Sardar and given a *Sanad* under the hand of the Viceroy. He is well known and much liked in the Lahore district. The jagir allowances in the family have ceased; but the Sardar has proprietary rights in four villages, and he is in flourishing circumstances.

Gurbaksh Singh, nephew of Sardar Atma Singh, a Naib-Tahsildar, died in 1882. His son Harnand Singh is betrothed to a daughter of the late Sardar Ajit Singh Atariwala of Amritsar. The family have been fortunate in securing good alliances for their sons and daughters by marriage. They have thus become connected with some of the best houses in the Manjha.

## PANDIT SHEO NATH.



The ancestors of Diwan Shankar Nath were inhabitants of Kashmir. The first to leave his native country was Lal Chand Kaul, who emigrated to Dehli during the reign of the Emperor Shah Jahan and entered the service of Ali Mardan Khan, the accomplished Minister of the Moghal Prince. There he acquired considerable wealth, and after some years returned to Kashmir. His success induced several others of the family to follow his example; and among the emigrants was Ragnath Kaul, who settled at Faizabad, where a son, Hari Ram, was born to him. He then took service with the Maharaja of Gwalior, and became Mir Munshi of Colonel Louis Burquien, one of the French officers in the Maharata army. His son Hari Ram worked under him till the overthrow of the Maharata power threw both father and son on the world. Hari Ram soon after this was invited to Lahore by a relative, Diwan Ganga Ram, who had taken service with Ranjit Singh in 1813, and had risen to offices of trust and profit. He accepted the invitation and, being a ready writer, was placed in charge of the Diwan's office. In 1817 he was attached as Munshi to the person of the Maharaja, and in 1818 held the same office with Kharak Singh the heir-apparent, whose jagir accounts he kept.



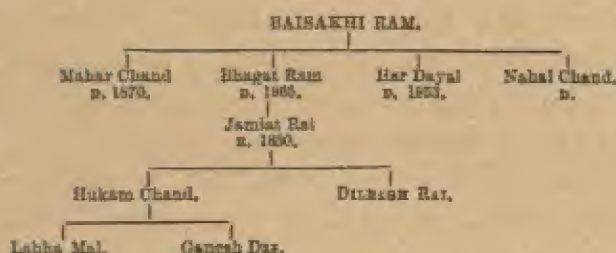
Shankar Nath, born at Dehli in 1805, was brought to Lahore by his father in 1820 and placed in Prince Kharak Singh's Treasury office. He was afterwards transferred to the Central Record office, in which he remained till the annexation of the Panjab. His connection with Raja Dina Nath, whose sister he had married, gave Pandit Shankar Nath much influence; and he was besides known for ability and unimpeachable honesty. During the time of the Residency, from 1846 to 1849, Shankar Nath was largely and confidentially employed by British officers, Messrs. Bowring, Cocks, Wedderburn and Major Macgregor; and all have borne witness to the value of his services and to his high character. Being chief Munshi of Raja Dina Nath's office, a large amount of revenue work was made over to him, and he himself disposed of upwards of eight thousand cases. Till 1849 Shankar Nath held jagirs to the value of Rs. 6,500, besides cash allowances, Rs. 1,360 and Rs. 2,412, for his establishment. The jagirs situated in Shekhopura and Gujrat were resumed, and a pension of Rs. 2,620 was assigned to him for life. In 1862 Shankar Nath was appointed Honorary Magistrate of Lahore. In this office he gave great satisfaction by his impartiality and activity. He possessed great knowledge of Hindu Law, and in intricate cases of custom, inheritance and religion his opinion was sought with confidence by the English Magistrates of Lahore. In January 1865 he was created a Diwan by the Supreme Government. He was for many years a Member of the Municipal Committee. He died in 1876, regretted by all classes, and was succeeded as head of the family by his son Parem Nath, Nazir of the Deputy Commissioner's Court, Lahore. In recognition of the Diwan's loyal and faithful services, a grant was made in 1880 to Parem Nath of one thousand acres in Rakh Balil Bachoke in the Chunian Tahsil of the Lahore district, upon favourable rates for a term of twenty years. Parem Nath has here founded the village of

Parem Nagar. It lies within four miles of Raiwind Junction on the Lahore-Multan Railway. Parem Nath retired on a pension in 1884 after thirty years' service, and died in 1886. He was a Darbari on the Lieutenant-Governor's List. His eldest son Duarka Nath was an Extra Assistant Commissioner, but survived his father only two years.

Pandit Sheo Nath, second son of Diwan Shankar Nath, has been in the service of the Maharaja of Jamu for the past eighteen years, as an attendant at the Court, without being assigned any special duties. He receives an allowance of Rs. 125 per mensem from the Jamu Darbar. He may be regarded as the present head of the family. He has no seat in Darbar.



## DILBAGH RAI.



(The family formerly resided at Lahore. Lala Jamiat Rai, now representative of Bakshi Bhagat Ram, has taken up his abode in Benares).

Baisakhi Ram, father of Bakshi Bhagat Ram, was a money-changer, in a very small way of business, in the city of Lahore. In 1818, Bhagat Ram, then nineteen years of age, was taken into the Treasury office as a writer on Rs. 60 a month by Misar Beli Ram, the chief Toshakhania or Keeper of the State Treasury. In 1824 he received the post of Assistant Writer of the Accounts of the Privy Purse, with Rs. 50 per mensem additional pay. He was in 1831 deputed to accompany Prince Sher Singh to the hill country of the Jalandhar Doab to collect the revenue from Tira and Sujanpur, and the tribute from Mandi, Suket and Kulu. The next year Bhagat Ram returned to Lahore and was appointed *Bakshi*, or Paymaster of fifty battalions of infantry, eight regiments of cavalry and twenty batteries of artillery on a salary of Rs. 2,520 a year. He held this appointment throughout the reigns of Maharajas Ranjit Singh and Kharak Singh, and in 1841 Maharaja Sher Singh granted him, in addition to his cash allowance, jagirs at Ajnala and Surapur worth Rs. 3,000.

Bakshi Bhagat Ram was exceedingly popular with the army, and after the assassination of Sher Singh his influence became very great. He was at the head of one division of the *Mutsadi* or Munshi party, while Diwan Dina Nath was all-powerful in another, composed of the clever and unscrupulous

Kashmiri Brahmans. After the murder of Raja Hira Singh and Pandit Jala on the 21st December 1844, it was decided in Darbar that the Government should be carried on by a Council composed of Sardar Jawahir Singh, Raja Lal Singh, Diwan Dina Nath, Sardars Atar Singh Kalianwala, Sham Singh Atariwala and Bakshi Bhagat Ram; but it was not long before the chief power fell into the hands of Jawahir Singh and Lal Singh alone.

The Bakshi went to Jamu with the expedition against Raja Gulab Singh in March 1845, and his great influence with the troops induced the Raja to bestow upon him enormous presents. But these Bhagat Ram was very near losing, for, when the army had brought Gulab Singh to Lahore, that Prince professed his willingness to guarantee to the troops a higher rate of pay, provided that all the Chiefs contributed according to their means; and the Bakshi he put down for a donation of five lakhs of rupees, which was in reality less than he had received at Jamu.

In June 1845, the army, weary of the incapacity of the Minister, Jawahir Singh, demanded that he should be dismissed from office, and that in his stead Diwan Dina Nath, Bhagat Ram, or Raja Lal Singh, or the three conjointly, should be appointed to the Wazirship. The Rani, however, contrived to bring about a reconciliation between her brother Jawahir Singh and her lover Lal Singh, and the incompetent Wazir remained at the head of affairs until his assassination three months later.

A new jagir, worth Rs. 8,000, at Datarpur in the Jalandhar Doab, was granted to the Bakshi by Maharaja Dalip Singh. When the Doab was ceded to the British Government by the Treaty of the 9th March 1846, Bhagat Ram lost his jagir; but another of the same value was granted to him in the Talwandi Pargana of the Amritsar district. His cash allowance was reduced to Rs. 1,300, and the next year he



received an additional jagir at Dharamkot, worth Rs. 2,000. His emoluments at this time amounted in cash and land to Rs. 14,300.

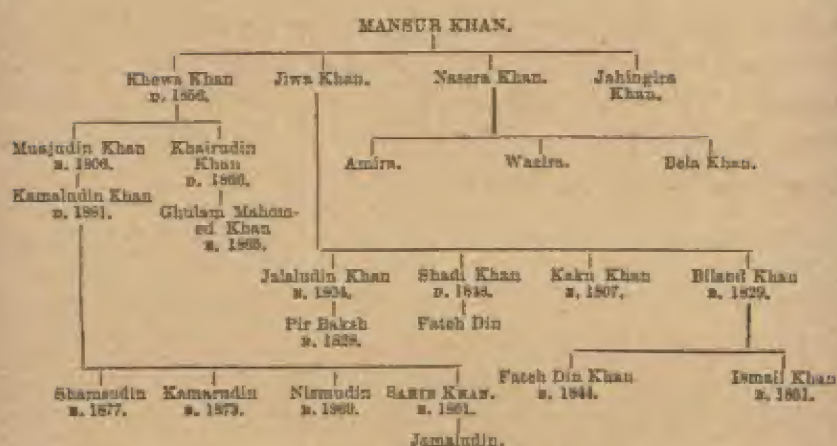
When at the close of 1847 Mr. John Lawrence, the Officiating Resident, was attempting to introduce some order and system into the Sikh administration, Bakshi Bhagat Ram was directed to render the army accounts, which he had not done for several years. When he would do this by no inducement whatever he was suspended from office, and four Paymasters were appointed in his room, and a regular system of audit and account was introduced. Still failing to render the accounts, the jagirs of Bakshi Bhagat Ram were resumed. At length the accounts were produced. About five and a half lakhs of rupees appeared against him; but a large portion of this was allowed to be written off. Part was due from various officers of the army; and on payment of the balance the accounts were passed by the Darbar. Several months later Sir F. Currie refused to accede to the wish of the Darbar and restore to the Bakshi his resumed jagirs; and accordingly at the annexation of the Panjab he had no claims on the new Government. A pension of Rs. 1,200 per annum was, however, granted to him in 1853, on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner.

Bhagat Ram was never accused of embezzlement of the public money; and his poverty, when he possessed such ample opportunities of enriching himself at the expense of the State, is the proof of his personal honesty. But, although he did not himself plunder the State, he was in no way careful to check the depredations of others. His subordinates in the Military Pay Department were the most greedy and unscrupulous of men. They grew rich on the plunder of the army, and were the objects of universal hatred. If Bhagat Ram had been less amiable and more energetic he would have been a valuable public servant.

On the death of Bakshi Bhagat Ram in 1865, one-third of his life pension of Rs. 100 per mensem was continued to his widow, who has since died. His son Jamiat Rai was at one time a Naib Tahsildar in the Jalandhar district, but he was dismissed the service in 1873. He has taken up his abode in Banares. His son Dilbagh Rai is a Moharir in the Postal Department. The family has sunk into obscurity and is no longer one of note in the Province.



## MALIK SAHIB KHAN KASURIA.



The ancestors of Malik Sahib Khan were Bhati Rajputs, resident in the Sirsa district. About the year 1520, Gagu and Nolu, two members of the family, obtained from Ibrahim, the last of the Lodi dynasty, a grant of thirty thousand acres of waste land in the Kasur district. Thither the brothers proceeded with their families, and founded several villages, Hariki, Betu and the two Nols. About this time also, whether from conviction, or influenced by the grant of land, they became converts to Mahomedanism. When the Sikhs became powerful, about the middle of the eighteenth century, Kasur with its large Mahomedan population, consisting partly of Pathan colonists and partly of Hindu converts, fell into the hands of the Bhangi Chiefs, who held it till 1794, when Nizamudin Khan, the Pathan leader, drove out the Sikhs, and contrived for some years to hold his own against all opposition. Nizamudin Khan was assassinated by some of his relations in 1802, and his brother Kutabdin Khan became Chief in Kasur. He married a daughter of Khewa Khan, and bestowed upon his father-in-law an estate worth Rs. 10,000 in

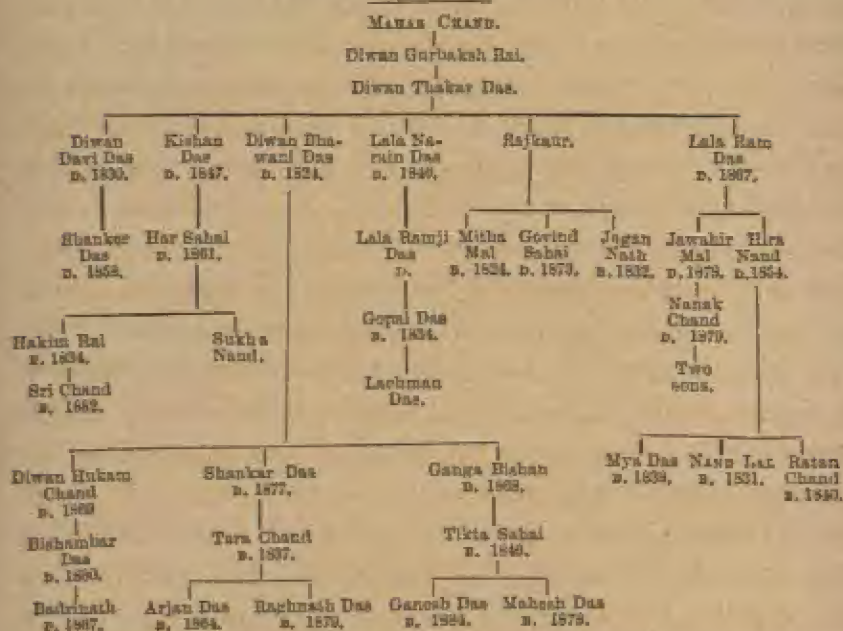
addition to his ancestral villages. In 1807 Kasur was conquered by Ranjit Singh, and Kutabdin Khan was permitted to retain Mamdot, to the south of the Satlaj, whither he retired, accompanied by Khewa Khan, who received a jagir in Mamdot of the same value as that he had lost in Kasur, subject to the service of a contingent of horse. For many years, under Kutabdin and his successor Jamaludin, Malik Khewa performed military service; and when he grew old his son Khairudin headed the contingent on active service. Khairudin Khan during the First Afghan War was stationed at Peshawar with the one hundred horsemen of the Mamdot contingent; and after its disastrous termination he accompanied the second army under General Pollock to Kabul with the Mamdot horse and one hundred men from the Mokal and Atariwala contingents. His services, at a time when the Sikh brigade was notoriously hostile and refused to advance, were very valuable, and on his return to the Panjab both General Pollock and Major Mackeson recommended him to the kindness of Maharaja Sher Singh, who promised to increase his jagir, but was assassinated before he was able to carry out his intention. At this time Jamaludin Khan, Chief of Mamdot, confiscated the jagir of Khewa Khan, who retired to the village of Betu, an ancestral possession, where he died at a very advanced age, in 1856. Maharaja Dalip Singh, in compensation for this loss of the Mamdot jagir, gave to Khairudin Khan, in 1844, six villages near Kasur, worth Rs. 6,000. During the latter part of the Satlaj War he fought on the side of the British, crossing the river with his whole family and joining the camp soon after the battle of Firozshahar. During the retrenchments that followed the deposition of Raja Lal Singh his jagir was reduced to Rs. 4,000, and shortly afterwards two more villages were taken away; the Kardars affirming that the revenue of the two remaining ones, Betu and Matran, was fully Rs. 4,000. At the time of the Multan outbreak,



Khairudin was at Dera Ismail Khan, under the orders of Captain Taylor. He was sent to Bannu to relieve Fateh Khan Tawana, who was besieged in Dalipghar; but Fateh Khan was slain and the fort reduced before he reached it. He was afterwards sent from Isakhel with two hundred horse and five hundred foot into the Pindi Gheb country to harass Gauhar Singh, the rebel Kardar of Sardar Chatar Singh, and to encourage the Atock garrison. He performed the duty most satisfactorily. Gauhar Singh was routed in two or three encounters, and was forced to fly the country; and while the Sikh army remained on the left bank of the Jhilam, Khairudin held his ground to the north of the Salt Range. In 1857, at the requisition of the Chief Commissioner, he raised one hundred horsemen, and with his nephews proceeded to Hissar under General Van-Cortlandt.

In this expedition Kamaludin Khan, his nephew and adopted son, was made Rasaldar, and distinguished himself highly. Khairudin Khan also did good service at Gogaira against the rebel Ahmad Khan, Chief of the Kharals. He died in 1866, having served the British Government faithfully in five campaigns, proving himself a man upon whom reliance might be confidently placed. His jagir, valued at Rs. 2,500, but now (owing to river action) worth only Rs. 1,800, passed to his nephew Kamaludin, who enjoyed it until his death in 1881. Kamaludin's eldest son, Sahib Khan is a Provincial Darbari and a Member of the Local Board at Kasur. He and his three brothers jointly hold the family jagir. They receive in addition an income of about Rs. 2,500 as proprietary dues in five villages in the Lahore and Ferozpur districts. No members of the family are at present in Government service.

## NAND LAL, LAHORE.



Gurbaksh Rai was the first of this family to rise to any eminence. He was the Diwan, or Minister, of Nawab Nasir Khan, the ruler of Kabul and Peshawar, and possessed great influence. His son Thakar Das was Diwan to Haji Ata Khan, son-in-law of Shah Wali Khan, chief Minister of Ahmad Shah, the celebrated Durani Chief. On the death of the Haji, Thakar Das entered the service of Ahmad Shah, who made him Diwan Khas, or Privy Counsellor, and gave him charge of the Seal of State. His wealth and power were considerable, and his style of living was princely. He accompanied Ahmad Shah on his first expedition to India in 1747, and after the capture and sack of Mathra received the grant of a valuable jagir in the Jalandhar Doab. Timur Shah succeeded his father in 1773, and during his reign of twenty years Thakar Das continued to fill the office of Diwan. He served Shah Zaman during the first year of his troublous reign, and died at an advanced age in 1794.



Bhawani Das, the second son of Thakar Das, was a Revenue officer of high standing under Shah Shuja. He was chiefly employed in collecting the customs of Multan and the Derajat; and in 1808, disgusted at the manner in which he was treated by the Kabul Court, he determined to try and obtain service with Ranjit Singh, and accordingly set off for Lahore, forgetting, it is asserted, to pay into the Treasury the revenue that he had collected. He was well received by the Lahore Chief who, surrounded by illiterate soldiers, was much in want of some able man, with a reputation as a financier, to keep his accounts. At this time there was no State Treasury or regular system of accounts at Lahore. The revenue, which amounted to about thirty lakhs of rupees, was managed by the Amritsar banker, Ramanand, who held the octroi of Amritsar and farmed the salt mines of Pind Dadan Khan. Bhawani Das soon effected a great improvement. He established a pay office for the troops and a finance office; of both of which he was made the head.

Davi Das, his elder brother, joined him at Lahore towards the end of 1809. He had been in the service of Wazir Sher Mahomed, the son of Wazir Shah Wali Khan, Minister of Ahmad Shah. After the assassination of his master he remained for some time in concealment, as he feared the same fate; but at length, effecting his escape, he set out for Lucknow, where his family had been promised an asylum. But his route lay through Lahore; and on his arrival there the persuasions of Ranjit Singh and the high position of his brother induced him to remain. He was associated with Bhawani Das in the Finance Department, neither being subordinate to the other, and they always got on well together. Davi Das was a man of as great ability and of far greater integrity than his brother, but he never became so prominent, as he was of a retiring disposition.

After the cession of the fort of Kangra to Ranjit Singh by Sansar Chand in 1810, and the reduction of the hill Chiefs,

Bhawani Das was sent to collect the tribute from the Rajas of Mandi and Suket. In 1816 he was made chief Diwan to Prince Kharak Singh, and was employed to reduce the country of the Ramgarhia Sardars about Amritsar and Gurdaspur. The next year he was sent to Jamu to bring the district into order and to make it over to Gulab Singh, who had just received the title of Raja. He was present at the siege of Multan and shared the Peshawar and Yusufzai Campaigns. But, although the appointments filled by Bhawani Das were many and lucrative, his chief work was as head of the Finance Department. On one occasion he fell into deep disgrace. He had quarrelled with Misar Beli Ram, the Treasurer, who accused him to the Maharaja of embezzlement. The charge was considered proved; and Ranjit Singh, in his passion, struck Bhawani Das in open Darbar with his sheathed sword and fined him a lakh of rupees.\* The Diwan was then banished to a hill appointment; but his services were too valuable to be lost, and he was recalled after a few months. He remained Minister of Finance till his death in 1834, when he was succeeded by Lala Dina Nath. Davi Das died four years earlier, in 1830.

Hukam Chand was appointed a *Daftari*, or Office-keeper, on the establishment of Prince Kharak Singh in 1836, and the next year was made Kardar of Satgarha on Rs. 100 per mensem; and he managed his district with tolerable ability. In 1840 he was sent to Bannu, under the orders of Raja Suchet Singh, in one of the many expeditions to collect the revenue by force of arms. He received the title of Diwan from Maharaja Sher Singh. In 1847-48 he was ordered to accompany Lieutenant Edwardes to Bannu. He remained under

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\* It is commonly believed that this fine was paid by the generous Sardar Jawala Singh Padhana who was a great friend of Bhawani Das; but Diwan Hukam Chand denies the story.



that officer till the Multan war broke out; and his assistance in the settlement of the Trans-Indus districts was most valuable. He accompanied the British army to Multan, where he behaved very well. Before annexation he was in receipt of Rs. 6,700 per annum, and in 1850 was allowed to retain a jagir of Rs. 2,300 in the Pak Patan district and a pension of Rs. 1,300 a year. In 1855 he was made Tahsildar of Pasrur in the Sialkot district; but he did not give satisfaction to the authorities, and in 1858 was permitted to resign. He died in 1869. His son Bishambar Das, a Munsif of the Rawalpindi district, died, sonless, in 1880. His nephew Tara Chand is a Deputy Inspector of Police. Triкта Sahai, another nephew, is Superintendent of the Deputy Commissioner's Vernacular office, Hazara. The jagir in the Montgomery district was resumed on the death of Diwan Hukam Chand.

Shankar Das, brother of Diwan Hukam Chand, was a Munshi in his father's office. He and his brother Ganga Bishan each enjoyed a pension of Rs. 240.

Lala Narain Das, fourth son of Thakar Das, was successively Kardar of Amritsar, Kangra, Jamu and Jaswan. In 1825 he was made Office Keeper of the Moti Mandar Treasury under Misar Beli Ram, and later obtained the Kardarship of Lahore, which he held till 1833. In 1838 he retired to Kabul, where he obtained a military command, and soon after died. His son and grandson are still resident in Afghanistan.

Raj Kaur came to Lahore with his brother Davi Das, and after the capture of Mankera was made Kardar of the district; Sardar Fateh Singh Man holding the military command. He acted for his brother Bhawani Das, when that officer was on duty in Kashmir, in 1819.

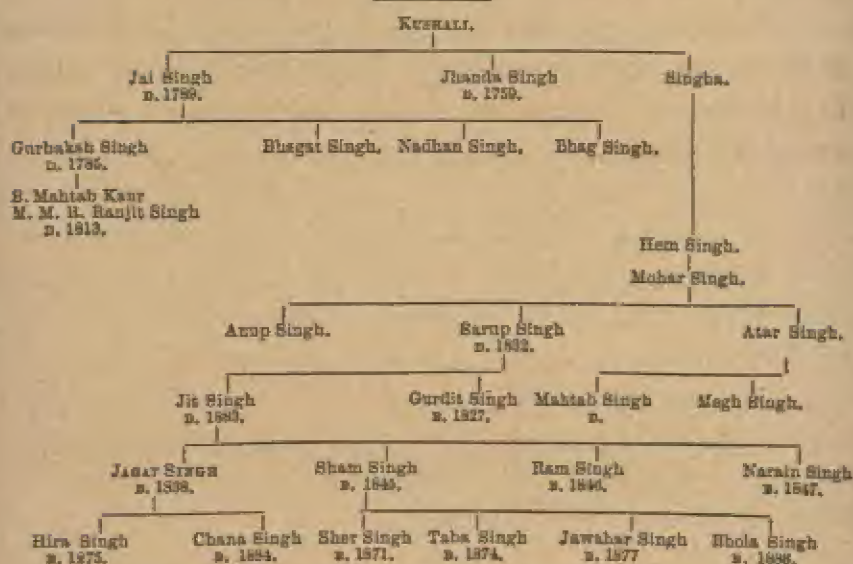
On the death of Lala Ram Das in 1867 his allowance of Rs. 1,200 was resumed, and in lieu a pension of Rs. 240 was sanctioned for his son Jawahir Mal, who died in 1878.

Jawahir Mal's nephew Maya Das was for a short time in the service of the Maharaja of Indor as a personal attendant.

The family has sunk into obscurity. Nand Lal, brother of Maya Das, may be considered as its present head. He is Record-keeper in the Chief Court, Lahore, on a salary of Rs. 50 per mensem.



## SARDAR JAGAT SINGH KANHYA.



The Kanhya Misal was at one time the most powerful of the Sikh confederacies north of the Satlaj. Its first leader was Jai Singh, the son of a Sindhu Jat cultivator named Kushali, who lived at the village of Kanah, which had been founded by one of his tribe, some fifteen miles from Lahore. From the native village of its leader the confederacy took its name.\*

Jai Singh and his brother Jhanda Singh joined the confederacy of Kapur Singh, known as the Faizulapuria, Faizasadpuria or Singpuria, about the year 1749. On the death of this Chief, the brothers retired to Sohian, the village of Jai Singh's father-in-law, about nine miles from Amritsar, collected a troop of about four hundred horse and took possession of the surrounding country. Jhanda Singh was killed

\* Some of the country bards tell a romantic story, to the effect that, when the young Jai Singh went to Amritsar to be baptized as a Sikh, the assembled Chiefs were so struck with his beauty that they asked him from what village he had come. "I am of Kanah," he said. "Well is your village named Kanah" was the reply, "for you resemble Kanhya himself."

Kanhya, or Kanhia, is one of the names of the beautiful Krishan, an incarnation of Vishnu.

five years later in a fight with Nadhan Singh Randhawa at Rawalkotli, and his brother succeeded to his share in the estate, marrying the widow by the rite of *chadar dalna*. Jai Singh soon became a powerful Chief, and seized Nag, Makarian, Haji, Karot, Uthian and other Awan villages, while his subordinates and associates all won jagirs for themselves. Among the followers of Jai Singh were many well-known names: Amar Singh and Jhanda Singh Bhaga, Lakha Singh Kanowala, Amar Singh Khankra, Budh Singh of Dharamkot, Jhanda Singh Karoh, and others.

In 1759 Desan, the widow of Jhanda Singh and wife of Jai Singh, gave birth to a son, Gurbaksh Singh, who was married, when nine years of age, to Sada Kaur, daughter of Dasaunda Singh of Alkolwala.

The leader of one great section of the Kanhya Misal was Hakikat Singh Sangatpuria, a rival of Jai Singh, but nevertheless his friend and associate in many expeditions. In 1763, after Ahmad Shah had retired from the Panjab, having totally defeated the Sikhs near Ludhiana and destroyed the holy temples at Amritsar, these Chiefs, allied with Jasa Singh Ahluwalia, Hari Singh Bhangi, and Jasa Singh Ramgarhia, attacked the Pathan town of Kasur, which they captured and sacked after a month's siege. Soon after this Jai Singh quarrelled with Hari Singh Bhangi, and fought him near Emanabad. Neither party could claim the victory; and Jai Singh then marched to Sarhand, ravaging the country as he passed; and was present in the great battle where Zain Khan was defeated and slain, and from which the Sikhs date their existence as a nation.

In 1773 Raja Ranjit Deo of Jamu, a tributary of Sardar Jhanda Singh Bhangi, quarrelled with his eldest son Brij Raj Deo, whom he desired to exclude from the succession in favour of his youngest son Mian Dalil Singh. Brij Raj Deo called to his assistance Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh Kanhya and



Charat Singh Sukarchakia; while the Raja summoned Jhanda Singh and all the Bhangi Chiefs. The rival forces took up their position on either side of the Basanti, and for some months fought with varying success. The death of Charat Singh from the bursting of his gun gave the advantage at length to the Bhangis, and the Kanhya Chiefs then determined to assassinate Jhanda Singh. They heavily bribed a Mazbi sweeper, who shot him dead as he was riding, attended by only three horsemen, through the camp. The death of Jhanda Singh ended the quarrel. The rival forces retired from Jamu, which became tributary to Hakikat Singh.

The next year Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh built the quarter at Amritsar still known as the Kanhya Katra; and soon after this Jai Singh with a large force escorted the young Mahan Singh, son of Charat Singh, to Badrukh, where he was married to the daughter of Gajpat Singh of Jind.

On the death of Nawab Saif Ali Khan, the Mahomedan Governor of Kangra, in 1774, Raja Sansar Chand Katoch laid siege to the celebrated fort, but was unable to reduce it. He then invited Sardar Jai Singh to assist him; and Gurbaksh Singh was accordingly sent with Sardar Baghel Singh and a considerable force. It was not long, however, before Gurbaksh Singh saw that he who possessed the Kangra fort must be master of all the hill country; and determined to win it for himself. He persuaded the Raja to offer the garrison very favourable terms, free pardon, money and lands; and by hints of the Raja's treacherous intentions he induced the besieged to allow his troops to take possession, that their obtaining what was promised might be assured. Both parties were thus duped. Gurbaksh Singh occupied and held the fort, and Sansar Chand had to retire. Previous to this some of the Hill States had been tributary to Sardar Hakikat Singh; but Jai Singh now became paramount, and all the hill Chiefs sought his alliance.

The Ramgarhias and Kanhyas had been fast friends in old days; but Jai Singh and Jasa Singh had quarrelled about the Kasur prize-money, and the former joined the Ahluwalia and Bhangi Chiefs in expelling Jasa Singh from the Panjab. Raja Ranjit Deo died in 1780, and his son Brij Raj Deo succeeded him. The new Prince wished to win back some of his territory from the Bhangis, and asked Hakikat Singh to assist him. Neither Jai Singh nor Hakikat Singh much liked the business, for the Bhangis were their friends, and Jai Singh had recently married the daughter of a Bhangi Chief; but they marched to Karianwala, which after some fighting was taken possession of by the Raja. The Kanhya Chiefs soon left their new ally and went over to the Bhangis, and Hakikat Singh, with Gujar Singh and Bhag Singh Ahluwalia, retook Karianwala and invaded Jamu. Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia, who professed the greatest affection for Brij Raj Deo, with whom he had exchanged turbans, hurried up from Ramnagar, where he had been engaged with the Chatahs, and attacked the camp of Hakikat Singh, but was repulsed with loss. He then, with the Raja, called Jai Singh and Jasa Singh Ahluwalia to his help. These Chiefs came and tried to arrange terms, but, finding this hopeless, returned to Amritsar. Mohan Singh was now obliged to submit; and the Raja agreed to pay a tribute of Rs. 30,000 to Hakikat Singh, who, six months later, finding that the payment of the tribute was evaded, proposed to Mahan Singh to join him in an attack on Jamu, dividing the booty between them. To this the Sukarchakia Chief, forgetting his friendship with the Raja and the exchanged turbans, readily consented. He marched to Chapral, while Hakikat Singh took the road to Zafarwal. But Mahan Singh kept faith with none of his allies. Finding that the Raja had fled, and that he was strong enough to act alone, he plundered and burnt the city and palace of Jamu, and retired



to the plains with great spoil. Hakikat Singh thought of revenge for this treachery, but was taken ill and died shortly afterwards.

When Jai Singh heard of the sack of Jamu and the death of Hakikat Singh he was very indignant. He prevented Jaimal Singh, son of Hakikat Singh, from going to Gujranwala, whither Mahan Singh had invited him, and threatened the Sukarchakia Chief with his vengeance; and in 1783 he marched against Jandiala and plundered Rasulpur and Mandiala, and then attacked the possessions of Wazir Singh and Bhagwan Singh, the Nakai Chiefs, connections of Mahan Singh, and compelled them to submit. At the *Diwali* of 1784 Mahan Singh went to Amritsar and tried hard to make peace with Jai Singh, but in vain. He was threatened with imprisonment if he did not restore the Jamu spoil, and was treated with so much rudeness that he fled from Amritsar, determined on revenge. There were many ready to join him in an attack on the Kanhya Chief. Chief of these were Sansar Chand of Katoch, and Jasa Singh Ramgarhia who had been wandering for years an exile in the wastes of Hariana. The allies marched to Batala, and about eight miles from that town were met by Gurbaksh Singh, who offered them battle. For six hours the fight was continued, till an arrow, shot by one of Guru Sundar Das' men, struck Gurbaksh Singh in the breast and wounded him mortally; and the Kanhya troops, having lost their leader, were completely routed.

Jai Singh was so distressed at the loss of his son that he made no further resistance. Kangra he gave up to Sansar Chand, and restored to Jasa Singh Ramgarhia his old possessions; while to cement friendship with Mahan Singh he betrothed Mahtab Kaur, daughter of his dead son, to the youthful Ranjit Singh, afterwards Maharaja of the Panjab. The betrothal took place in 1785, and the marriage at the close of the next year.

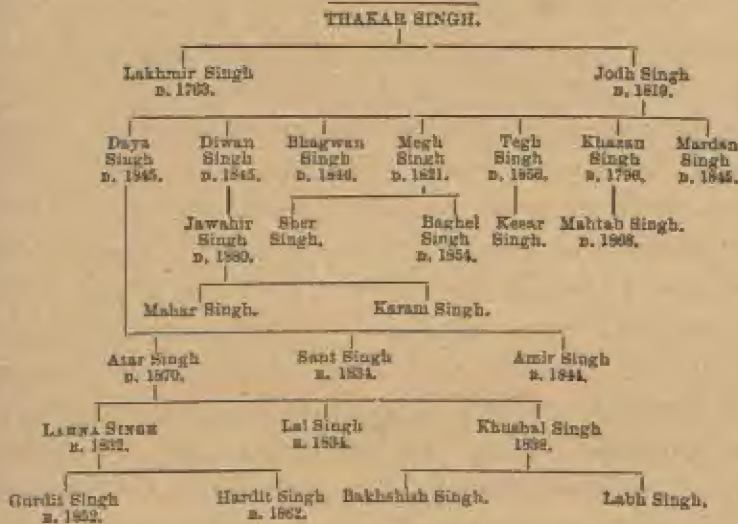
Jai Singh never recovered his former power, and died in 1789, when his daughter-in-law, Sada Kaur, became head of the Kanhya Misal. Mention has been made elsewhere of the ability, the unscrupulousness and the intrigues of this woman. It was through her assistance mainly that Ranjit Singh became master of the Panjab; and she retained a large portion of the Kanhya estates till 1820, when her greedy son-in-law made an excuse for seizing them all.

Hem Singh, the nephew of Sardar Jai Singh, had received the grant of the Ilaka of Rukhanwala, worth Rs. 40,000, after the capture of Kasur, and this he retained under Ranjit Singh. He fought with that Chief against Kasur during the last Campaign of 1807, and received another estate at Khodian worth Rs. 10,000. He died in 1820. His son Mohar Singh fought at Multan and in Kashmir; and in 1821 he was stationed at Pul Kanjri and Waniki to watch the ferries. He died at the last-named place in 1823. To his sons, who were employed on the same service, Rs. 30,000 of their father's estate was assigned. Sarup Singh died in 1832, and the jagir was given by the Maharaja to Kahan Singh Banka. The village of Rukhanwala alone was left to the family; but the next year the village of Kali was granted to Atar Singh's two widows, since dead. The sons of Atar Singh made many applications to Maharaja Sher Singh for the release of the estate, but in vain. Both, with their cousin Megh Singh, served in the Ghorcharas till 1846, when the general reductions were made after the Satlaj Campaign.

The family received in jagir the villages of Rakhanwala and Kali, Tahsil Kasur. On the death of Sardar Jit Singh in 1883, one-fourth the jagir (*viz.*, 1,125 acres, yielding Rs. 600 annually) was resumed. His son Jagat Singh is now at the head of the family. Gurdit Singh and Megh Singh still enjoy their jagir shares of Rs. 600 each.



## LAHNA SINGH ROSA.



There is a tradition that Rosa or Rusah, a Sidhu Jat, and an ancestor of this family, emigrated from Dehli some hundred years ago, and founded, near Chunian in the Lahore district, a village, to which he gave his own name. Thakar Singh was a Rasaldar in the service of the famous Dina Beg Khan, Governor, first of the Jalandhar Doab, and then of the Panjab. On the death of his master in 1758 he set up for himself, and contrived to possess himself of a large tract of country in the Gogaira and Gujranwala districts. In 1765 he joined Hari Singh Bhangi and Jai Singh Kanhya in their expedition against Kasur, where he was killed by a musket-shot. His eldest son Lakhmi Singh only survived him a year, and Jodh Singh succeeded to the entire estate. Some time after this, Jodh Singh quarrelled with Sardar Sobha Singh of Lahore and, to avoid his enmity, went to Gujranwala, where Sardar Charat Singh made him Thanadar. He rebuilt the old village of Rosa in the Chunian Pargana, and founded a second in Shekhopura, both of which are still held in proprietary right

by the family. On the death of Charat Singh, Sardar Sobha Singh, who had claimed to be the heir of Thakar Singh, seized half the Rosa estates, without any resistance on the part of Jodh Singh, who retained his appointment at Gujranwala under Mahan Singh and Ranjit Singh; and in 1799 he had the gratification of accompanying the latter to Lahore, when the city was taken and the son of his old enemy made prisoner.

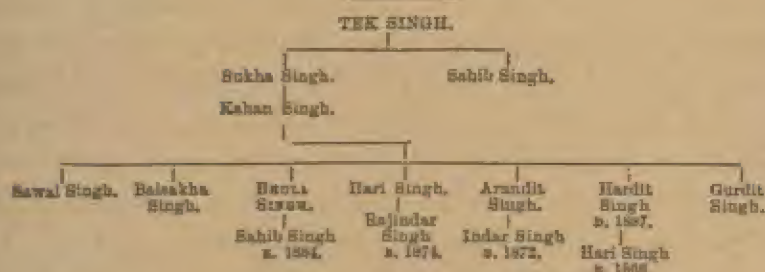
Jodh Singh served under Ranjit Singh in the Kasur, Pindi Bhatian and Jhang Campaigns; in the last of which he obtained for his bravery the jagir of Mohal and Draj in the Jhang district. He was shortly afterwards severely wounded at the siege of Chandiot. In the second Kashmir expedition, at Rajaori, he was killed in a skirmish. His three sons, Bhagwan Singh, Megh Singh and Tegh Singh, had some time before this entered the Maharaja's service, but the Kashmir Campaign was the first in which Daya Singh had been engaged. He was confirmed in his father's estates; but after the Maharaja's return to Lahore these were all resumed, and others were granted worth about Rs. 10,000, subject to the service of thirty horse; Bhagwan Singh receiving a separate jagir. Megh Singh was killed at Mangli in 1821 when serving under Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa. In 1832 Atar Singh was made Adjutant in the Dhonkal Singh Brigade, and afterwards in the Sher Singhwala, on its return from Kashmir. In 1834 the jagir of Daya Singh was resumed with that of his Chief, Sardar Atar Singh Kalianwala, who had incurred the Maharaja's displeasure by his refusal to proceed to Bannu. He was, however, left four villages worth Rs. 3,000; but the family never recovered its former position.

Atar Singh accompanied Sardar Ajit Singh Sindhanwalia to Kulu, in the Dasowala Dera, under Bahadar Singh, and remained there through all the Lahore revolutions, in which his General, Ajit Singh, perished. The Satlaj Campaign was fatal to the family of Rosa; for in one day, at Firozshahar,



Daya Singh, Diwan Singh and Mardan Singh were killed. Atar Singh was placed under the orders of Sardar Chatar Singh Atariwala when that Chief was sent as Governor to Hazara; and he joined him in rebellion in 1848. On crossing the Indus on his march from Peshawar, Sardar Chatar Singh made over Major G. Lawrence and family, whom he had taken prisoners, to Atar Singh for safe custody, with directions to convey them to Pothiar. Thither they were escorted by Atar Singh, and subsequently to Mamhiala and Rawalpindi, where, after the battle of Gujrat, they were given up to the British authorities. Atar Singh treated the prisoners with all kindness and consideration, and on the annexation of the Panjab received a pension of Rs. 600 per annum. He died in 1870. His son Lahna Singh is now at the head of the family. The village of Rosa in the Sharakpur Tahsil is held by the members, according to the ancestral shares. The present holders are Jawahir Singh, Kesar Singh and Sher Singh, and the three sons of Atar Singh.

## BHOLA SINGH ROSA.



Tek Singh was in the service of the Bhangi Sardars of Lahore, from whom he received a grant of the then deserted village of Nodhpur. In 1794, when Nizamudin Khan drove the Sikhs out of Kasur, Sukha Singh became officer of twenty-eight horse under him, and was killed, in 1806, in battle. Sahib Singh his brother was killed about the same time in a quarrel with the zamindars of Bablair.

In 1822 Monsieur Allard came to the Panjab and entered the service of the Maharaja. He was directed to raise a corps of Dragoons, and Kahan Singh Rosa was appointed Jamadar on Rs. 30 a month under him. The next year Kahan Singh was made Rasaldar in the same regiment, in which he remained for seven years. He did such good service in 1829 on the frontier, that, at General Ventura's recommendation, he was appointed Commandant in the *Khas Paltan*, or Life Guards, on Rs. 1,000 a year; being Rs. 280 cash, and the jagir of Bilandi, worth Rs. 720. He served with his regiment in Kulu, Mandi and elsewhere; and Maharaja Sher Singh raised his cash allowance to Rs. 800, and gave him, in addition to Bilandi, the village of Jodhpur and some wells in Rampur worth Rs. 1,000 a year. Kahan Singh was severely wounded in the breast by a musket-shot in the attack on Raja Suchet Singh in March 1844; and Hira Singh, who was then Minister, made him a Colonel and raised his emoluments to Rs. 6,120.



When Hira Singh was killed by the army, the Colonel, who was considered a *protégé* of the Raja, was turned out of the regiment by his own men, and he then entered the force of Sardar Sham Singh Atariwala. When the regiment was in front of the enemy at Sobraon, the men, finding that they could not fight without their old Colonel, insisted upon his returning to command them, which he did with distinguished gallantry throughout the battle. After Firozshahar he had been sent with a deputation from the *Panchayats* of the army to Raja Gulab Singh to implore him to join them without delay. But the Raja had other designs. He professed most earnestly to desire the success of the Sikhs; he pretended to send large convoys of provisions to the army; while he waited to see whether British or Sikhs would win. He longed with his whole heart for the destruction of the latter; and when he could no longer remain inactive, he moved from Jammu with the pretence of joining them. But at Shahdera, some three miles from Lahore, he waited for the news of the great battle; and when it arrived he took possession of Lahore and the person of the Maharaja, and then marched to Kasur as the friend and ally of the British to receive, as the reward for being the most astute man of his day, the kingdom of Kashmir. In 1846 Raja Lal Singh resumed the new jagirs of Kahan Singh; but, under the Regency, his pay was again raised to Rs. 2,880, at which it stood when the War of 1848 broke out.

At this time Kahan Singh was Colonel of the Dragoons at Peshawar, and was one of the first to join the national party. He was a man of great bravery and an admirable cavalry officer, and his influence with the army was great. Through the whole Campaign of 1848-49 he fought with the greatest gallantry; and he and Sardar Jawahir Singh Nalwa were, perhaps, the most dashing officers among the Sikhs. After Chilianwala a great Council of Chiefs was called, and

Kahan Singh proposed to attack the British camp by night with the entire Sikh force. This was negatived by the other Chiefs, and Kahan Singh then advocated an attack early on the following morning. Sardar Chatar Singh opposed this, and thought it better to march to Gujrat, and from thence to Lahore; and the Colonel then told him that the only reason that he would not attack was that he was afraid. Swords were out in a moment, but other Sardars interposed; and Kahan Singh, calling Chatar Singh a bastard and a coward, left the tent, followed by Jawahir Singh Nalwa, who alone had supported him.

After annexation Kahan Singh lost his jagirs, but received a cash pension of Rs. 600. His eldest son entered the Guide Corps as a Jamadar, and was a young man of promise, but died in 1856 of a fever contracted at Peshawar.

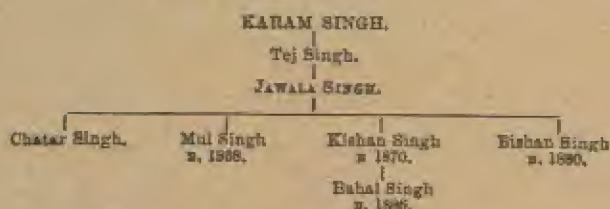
When the Mutinies of 1857 broke out Kahan Singh was one of the first Chiefs selected by the Chief Commissioner for service before Dehli. At this time he was in very bad health, and the old wound which he had received in the days of Hira Singh had re-opened; but he was eager to distinguish himself in fighting for the English, against whom he had once fought so bravely. He started immediately for Dehli with fifteen horse and eighteen foot, and joined the Guides, with whom he served till the fall of the city. In a sally of the enemy he received a severe wound in the shoulder, and from the effects of this he never entirely recovered. It was with his whole heart that Kahan Singh served in 1857. When disabled by his wound from actual fighting, he employed himself in procuring information and on winning over to the side of the English such of his countrymen as were in the ranks of the enemy; and more than forty of them he induced to desert. In 1858 the Government conferred on him, in addition to his pension of Rs. 600, his old village of Balandi, worth Rs. 720, for his life; Todapur, worth



Rs. 700, for his life and to descend for one generation; and the estate of Maloki-Parem in perpetuity. He also received a grant of the confiscated house of Mahbub Ali Khan at Dehli, worth Rs. 4,000.

Sardar Kahan Singh died in June 1864, leaving seven sons. Hardit Singh took service in the 11th Bengal Lancers, and retired as Rasaldar in 1882 on a pension of Rs. 860 per annum, having served throughout the late Afghan War. His death took place in 1887, under circumstances which warranted the belief that he had been murdered by some of his near relatives, though the offence could not be judicially proved. On the recommendation of the local authorities, Government refused to recognize Hira Singh as Jagirdar in succession to his father. It was conferred upon the deceased's brother Bhola Singh, subject to a payment of Rs. 400 to each of his half-brothers Hari Singh and Baisakha Singh. Bhola Singh, the present head of the family, is a Jamadar in the 11th Bengal Lancers.

## JAWALA SINGH ROSA.

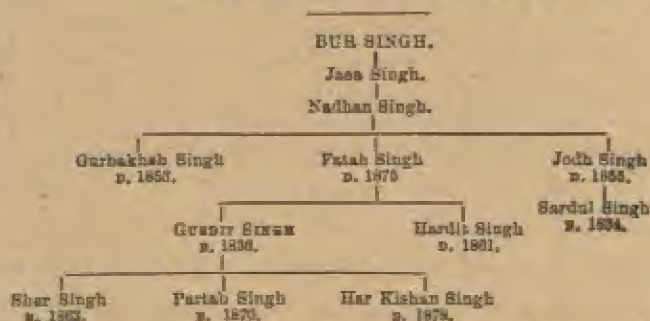


Tej Singh, son of Karam Singh, was for four years Rasaldar in the second troop of the North-Western Provinces Military Police. He did admirable service during the Mutinies, and in April 1859 was severely wounded in a fight with the rebels in the Mirzapur jungle. In October 1861, when the new system of Police was introduced, Tej Singh received his discharge. He was not only distinguished for gallantry in the field, but was also a first-rate officer, respected and obeyed by his men. Though of the Rosa family, he is very distantly connected with the branches of it represented by Hardit Singh and Atar Singh.

On the death of Tej Singh in 1877, his jagir, valued at Rs. 420 and Inam of Rs. 65 per annum, lapsed to Government. His son Jawala Singh is a Zaildar in the Lahore district.



## SARDAR GURDIT SINGH MARAKA.



The little village of Maraka, situated a few miles below Lahore on the Ravi, was founded by an ancestor of Gurdit Singh, whose descendants resided there for many generations. When Ahmad Shah Durani invaded the Panjab for the third time in 1752, Bur Singh was Chandri of Maraka and the surrounding villages. But reports reached Lahore that Maraka was little better than a nest of robbers, and the monarch sent a force to destroy the village. The work was well done. Maraka was burned to the ground; men, women and children were put to the sword; and Bur Singh and his son Jasa Singh, who were absent from the village, were almost the only ones that escaped. Whether the reputation of Bur Singh's village was deserved or not, it is certain that after its destruction he joined a band of robbers, and in one of their marauding expeditions was killed. Jasa Singh followed his father's profession, and became of some importance at the head of an organized body of Horse. He obtained possession of Daska in the Sialkot District, and took up his residence there. He was engaged in constant conflicts with Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchkaia, and with the residents of the neighbouring town of Eminabad. On one occasion the latter had assembled in force and, taking the town of Daska by surprise, carried off a large quantity of booty. Jasa Singh pursued them with

his horsemen and, after a severe fight, the booty was recovered ; but the Chief fell mortally wounded. His son Nadhan Singh was of a bold and enterprising disposition, and acquired a large increase of territory. The surrounding Chiefs, Mahan Singh of Gujranwala, Sahib Singh of Gujrat, Panjab Singh of Sialkot and Jodh Singh of Wazirabad, became jealous of his power, and were so continually engaged in hostilities with him that Nadhan Singh used to say that there was not a rood of ground in his territories on which men and horses had not fallen.

In 1797, when Shah Zaman invaded the Panjab, one of the few Sikh Chiefs who welcomed him was Sardar Nadhan Singh, who much felt the need of a powerful ally. He met the Kabul monarch on the banks of the Chanab, and was most graciously received, being confirmed in all his estates, and appointed to keep open communications between Lahore and Wazirabad. Soon after this Ranjit Singh, rising to power, summoned Nadhan Singh to attend him, but the high spirited Chief refused ; and it was not till 1810 that he, with two hundred and fifty horsemen consented to accompany the Maharaja on his Multan expedition. At the close of the campaign, Nadhan Singh returned to Daska, contrary to the orders of Ranjit Singh, who determined to punish the contumacious Chief. He laid siege to the fort of Daska, bringing against it the great Bhangi gun, which was only used on important occasions. After a month's siege Nadhan Singh was forced to surrender ; and, on the promise of protection given to him by the Maharaja through Baba Mulak Raj and Bedi Jamiat Singh, he came into camp, where, in violation of the promise, he was arrested and put in irons. The priests were very indignant at this breach of faith, and, it is said, sat *Dharna* on Ranjit Singh until he released Nadhan Singh, who forthwith fled to Kashmir and took service with Ata Mahomed Khan. He was, however, soon recalled, and a great portion of



his estate was restored to him, subject to the service of one hundred horsemen. In 1822, after the fall of Mankera, he received the grant of Baharpur near Dera Ismail Khan, worth Rs. 80,000; but this was shortly after restored to the Nawab, and Nadhan Singh received in exchange a large jagir in Hazara, where he remained for some time. After an engagement with Painsa Khan, in which he was severely wounded, he begged to be relieved of his troublesome charge, and was accordingly, in 1824, placed under the orders of Prince Kharak Singh, and in 1827 was transferred to the Ghorcharas on Rs. 1,700 per mensem. He remained in this force till 1845, when he retired to Maraka, where he died five years afterwards.

He was generally known as Nadhan Singh Hatu or Atu, and two derivations of the name are given. The first is, that Hatu is derived from the Panjabi *Hat*, meaning 'courage.' The second derives Atu from the Panjabi *Ath*, eight, from a tradition regarding a lady of the family who was so fortunate as to secure eight husbands. But there does not appear any good authority for the latter derivation.

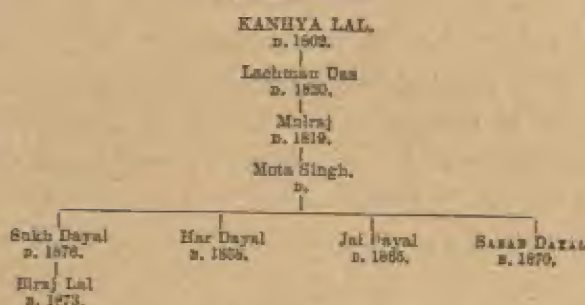
Sardar Fateh Singh commenced his military career in his father's contingent, in which he remained till 1827, when he was placed in the Ghorchara Kalan Regiment, and two years later in the Dhani Brigade under Misar Sukhraj on Rs. 90 a month. In 1835 he accompanied the Maharaja to Peshawar, when Dost Mahomed Khan was so cleverly outmanœuvred by Ranjit Singh; and in 1840 he was sent, under Arjan Singh Rangar Nanglia, to Kulu, which was in a disturbed state. He accompanied Imamudin Khan to Kashmir, and after the death of Raja Hira Singh was ordered to Rajauri and Punch to put down an insurrection there. During the Satlaj Campaign, Fateh Singh remained under Sardar Gulab Singh Povindia to protect the Maharaja and the capital, and on the restoration of peace he was appointed Commandant of

the new corps, Suraj Mukhi. In 1847 he accompanied Lieutenant (the late Sir H. B.) Edwardes to Bannu, and served throughout the Multan Campaign. He was engaged with his corps at the battles of Kaneri and Sadusam; and at both sieges of Multan his conduct and that of his men was exceedingly good. In 1857 he was in command of the Police Battalion at Umballa, and did admirable service both there and at Dehli. In 1862 he received his discharge, with a pension of Rs. 250 and a grant of six hundred acres of waste-land at Lakhuwal. He had, in addition, Rs. 300 of jagir at Maraka, where he resided, as well as proprietary rights in the village. Sardar Fateh Singh died in 1875. His son Gurdit Singh was first employed as Jamadar in the Suraj Mukhi on Rs. 30 a month. He was successively promoted to the Subadarship and Adjutantcy in the 5th Police Battalion on Rs. 150; but in 1862, at the time of the general Police reductions, he was discharged with a gratuity of Rs. 1,500. He again took service in the Police, and is now an Inspector in the Montgomery district on a salary of Rs. 200 per mensem. His father's life pension has, of course, ceased, and of the jagir one-third has been resumed. Gurdit Singh's eldest son, Sher Singh, served for some years in the Police as Deputy Inspector; but has lately retired. The second son, Partab Singh, is a candidate for military employment.

Jodh Singh, half brother of Fateh Singh, changed his religion from inability to pay a debt. He took from a merchant at Rawalpindi a beautiful and valuable horse, the price of which he was unable to pay. He applied to his father; but Nadhan Singh had no money to spare. At length, seeing no way of paying for the horse which he could not bring himself to give up, he rode off to Kabul, where he turned Mahomedan, and where he died in 1855 leaving one son, Sardul Singh, who was for some years a Subadar in the Frontier Force, and has lately been pensioned.



## SARAB DAYAL.



Kanhya Lal, the great-grandfather of Mota Singh, was in the service of Sardar Sobha Singh Kanhya, one of the three Sikh Chiefs who captured Lahore from the Mahomedan Governor. He was in a humble position, and gave up active service after Ranjit Singh had obtained possession of the city, and soon afterwards died. His son Lachman Das, finding no employment in the Panjab, retired to Kabul, where he set up as a schoolmaster; but three years before his death he returned to his native country, where, at Teja, he died of paralysis in 1820. His son Mulraj had died the preceding year.

Mota Singh entered the service of the Maharaja in 1832, and was placed in the battalion of Colonel Van Cortlandt. In 1837 he received a command in the Calcuttawala Battalion, but in 1842 was replaced under Colonel Van Cortlandt. He was made Adjutant in 1844. After the Satlaj Campaign he was transferred to the Suraj Mukhi Regiment; and on the outbreak of Multan he was Adjutant of that Corps, stationed at Dera Ismail Khan. He served throughout the war and at the two sieges of Multan with credit; and on the annexation of the Panjab he was appointed Adjutant of the 7th Police Battalion, which he assisted to raise and organize.

On the death of the brave Colonel Subhan Khan, Commanding the 1st Panjab Police Battalion, stationed at

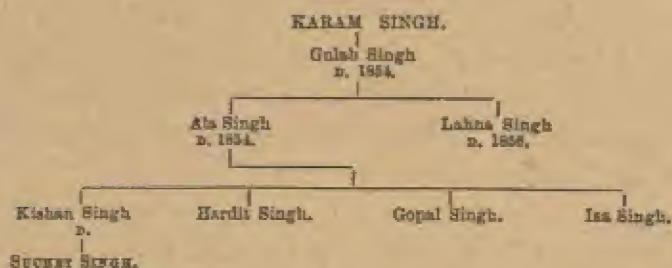
Lahore, Mota Singh was appointed to succeed him. This was in September 1857, before the fall of Dehli; and the loyalty and influence of Mota Singh must have been highly estimated, as he was thus selected to command the only Corps of armed native troops at the capital, while at the neighbouring cantonment of Mian Mir there were four thousand disarmed and mutinous sepoys. Mota Singh performed his difficult duties to the entire satisfaction of the authorities; and his regiment guarded the jails, treasuries and civil offices, and preserved the peace in the city of Lahore. A detachment from his Corps did good service in the disturbed district of Gogaira. The Military Police were broken up in 1861, and the men of Mota Singh's force were transferred to the Civil Constabulary. The services of the Commandant were accordingly no longer required, and being an elderly man he wished to retire from active employ, and took his discharge.

He received the Star of British India and the title of Sardar Bahadar; and, by an order of the Supreme Government of the 26th December 1861, he was granted a life pension of Rs. 3,000 per annum, inclusive of the allowance of the Order of British India, together with a grant of six hundred acres of waste land in the Lahore district. The proprietary right of the land continues in perpetuity in his family.

Sardar Mota Singh died some years ago. His third son, Sarab Dayal, now represents the family. The sons jointly hold the land-grant on which the village of Motawala has been founded. Their position is not a very prominent one in the district.



## SUCHET SINGH POVINDIA.



Karam Singh and his three brothers were among the Sikhs who overran and took possession of the Jalandhar Doab in the latter half of the eighteenth century. They secured an estate at Saranpur worth Rs. 8,000, which they held during their lifetime. All the brothers, with the exception of Karam Singh, died without issue, and in 1806, soon after Gulab Singh had succeeded to the estate, Ranjit Singh conquered the plain country of the Doab, and Gulab Singh retired to his native village of Povind. He then entered Ranjit Singh's service, and received this village in jagir, with the rank of Adjutant. He served with distinction under Misar Diwan Chand at Nurpur and in Kashmir, and on the termination of the latter campaign was made Commandant and received the village of Sidhu in jagir. After the capture of Multan in 1818 he was promoted to the rank of Colonel; and did such good service the next year at Mankera, that he received the grant of Akbarpur, near Gogaira, worth Rs. 500, with an elephant and valuable khilats. Gulab Singh was stationed at Peshawar for some years, and fought in most of the battles against Ali Akbar Khan and Dost Mahomed Khan. In the first Peshawar Campaign he discovered a ford on the Indus, and led his troops over in the van of the army, to Ranjit Singh's great satisfaction.

In 1826 he received command of three infantry and two cavalry regiments, with a troop of horse artillery; and the

same year his son Ala Singh entered the service and was made Commandant under his father, with an independent jagir. In 1839, when the regular army was first formed into brigades, Gulab Singh was made General, and held his rank and brigade throughout the following reign of Kharak Singh.

In 1837 Gulab Singh was sent to Gujranwala with orders to confiscate the property of Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa, who had been killed at Peshawar, and whose four sons were fighting about the succession. He drove Arjan Singh and Panjab Singh out of their fortified house ; threatened to hang the former, and took possession of all the property and estates. Arjan Singh determined on revenge ; and when Sher Singh became king, and everyone had license to avenge his real or fancied wrongs, he attacked and burnt Povind, where Gulab Singh resided. The General, fearing for his life, fled to Jammu, where he remained for some time under the protection of Raja Gulab Singh, till the Maharaja, by advice of Dhian Singh, recalled him and placed him in command of the contingent which was to support the British army during the Kabul Campaign. He accompanied Colonel Lawrence to Kabul ; and his services and knowledge of the country were of considerable value. Raja Hira Singh, whose family had always befriended Gulab Singh, gave him, on the death of Maharaja Sher Singh, new jagirs to the value of Rs. 7,625 ; and Colonel Ala Singh received new allowances, in jagirs and cash, to the value of Rs. 2,000.

Gulab Singh took no part in the Satlaj Campaign, his troops remaining in Lahore to protect the Maharaja ; and in April 1847 he was, at the recommendation of the Resident, appointed Governor of Peshawar and, being at this time the senior General, placed in command of all the troops at that station. The elevation of Gulab Singh to this important post was a great source of gratification to the Khalsa army, for the brave old man was much loved and respected by the



troops. He was created a Sardar ; and in a Darbar held at Lahore on the 26th November 1847 received the honorary title of Bahadar. Sardar Gulab Singh fulfilled the duties of his new appointment with ability and judgment ; and when the Multan rebellion broke out he gave his most cordial assistance to Major G. Lawrence, then in charge at Peshawar, to preserve the peace of the district. For six months, while the insurrectionary movement was spreading more and more widely over the country, the influence of Gulab Singh and his son and deputy, Colonel Ala Singh, kept the excited Sikh soldiery to their allegiance ; but when Sardar Chatar Singh approached Peshawar the troops could no longer be restrained and broke into open mutiny. Major Lawrence held his post till all was hopelessly lost, and then retired to Kohat. Gulab Singh and Ala Singh would have accompanied him, but the General was too infirm to move quickly ; and it was finally decided that he should retire to the fort of Shamirgarh, where he might make terms with the rebels. But this gallant officer refused any terms that would compromise his honour. Both he and his son remained loyal ; and the Sikh army, finding that they could not be seduced by bribes or terrified by threats, kept them under restraint till the close of the campaign, when the victory of the British restored them to liberty.

On the annexation of the Panjab, the whole of Sardar Gulab Singh's personal jagirs, to the value of Rs. 17,500, were confirmed to him for life, as were those of his two sons, Ala Singh and Lahna Singh, worth Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 1,050 respectively. The father and his sons are now all dead. Gulab Singh and Ala Singh died in 1854. The sons of Ala Singh, three in number, do not hold either jagirs or pensions.

In 1857 Hari Singh, a servant of the late Sardar, gave information to Government that Rs. 55,000 would be found buried in a house which had belonged to Gulab Singh, and on search being made the money was found and placed in the

Treasury. It was claimed by Nand Kaur, the widow of Gulab Singh, and the widows of Lahna Singh, who obtained a decree for the interest of the money in equal shares. This money afterwards passed to Kishan Singh, who squandered it. His son Suchet Singh lives in comparative obscurity at Povind, Tahsil Kasur, Lahore. He served for a short time with the 11th Bengal Lancers. The family is at present of little local importance.



## SARDAR INDAR SINGH OF TAHTAR.



Chur Singh, a Sindhu Jat and Chaudri of the village Tahtar near Lahore was the first of the family to adopt the Sikh faith, about 1740. His grandson Lakha Singh joined Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia as a sowar, and obtained Ilaka Ranjitgarh in jagir; also four villages in the Gujaranwala district. He, with his three brothers, fought for his master in his long struggle with the Bhangi Misal. He also distinguished himself against Dharam Singh, better known as Pritasha, who on Charat Singh's death, trusting to the youth and weakness of his successor, attempted to seize the chief power in the Misal. Shamir Singh first came into

notice in a battle against the warlike Chatas, who had been expelled from Ramnagar by Mahan Singh, and who nearly defeated Ranjit Singh at Manchar in the vicinity of the city. The Maharaja had a fancy that swords were more effective than fire-arms, and directed his soldiers only to use the former in the battle. Shamir Singh retained his musket, and at a critical time, when the Maharaja's troops were wavering, shot the leader of the Chatas dead. Shamir Singh was a celebrated shot; but he preferred the bow to the musket, and in his hands the bow was a deadly weapon. In 1808, by direction of the Maharaja, he built the fort of Govindgarh at Amritsar. There had before been a fort on the same spot, built by Sardar Gujar Singh Bhangi, but it was of no great strength. Shamir Singh was appointed Thanadar of the new fort, and held the post some years. He was succeeded by Fakir Imamudin. He served in many campaigns; and at Kot Budhi Khan, during the war against the Pathans of Kasur, was almost killed by a spearman of the enemy, who rushed upon him from behind when he was engaged with his favourite bow, which he did not find of much use at close quarters. In this Kasur Campaign, Lakha Singh was killed; and in the same year, too, were killed the two other brothers Amir Singh and Sahib Singh, the former in the Kangra Hills, the latter before Sujampur. In 1819 Shamir Singh was transferred as Thanadar to Nurpur. He died in 1822, and was succeeded in his jagir by his eldest son. Wachan Singh served at Peshawar, Kashmir, Teri, and at many other places with credit. In 1848 he was sent with his sowars to Multan under the command of Sardar Lal Singh Kahanwala, but joined the rebels and fought against the British at Ramnagar and Gujrat. After annexation his jagir was resumed, and he received a cash pension of Rs. 100, which he still holds. He is also proprietor of half the village of Tahtar in the Lahore district. His brother Kesar Singh



who enjoyed a pension of Rs. 120, died in 1863. Several members of the family took service in 1857; Rajindar Singh as Dafadar in Hodson's Horse, and Indar Singh his brother, now Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant-Governor, and Kamar Singh and Malkya Singh entered the Guide Corps; the former as Jamadar and the latter as Dafadar. Bishan Singh, son of Gurdit Singh, served with credit in China.

The most prominent living member of the family is Sardar Indar Singh, Inspector of Police, who has acted as Orderly officer to every Lieutenant-Governor of the Province since Sir John Lawrence's time. He holds the highest testimonials from Lord Lawrence, Sir Robert Montgomery, Sir Henry Davies, Sir Robert Egerton, and Sir Charles Aitchison. It may be noted that his grandfather Sahib Singh was always about the person of Ranjit Singh in the Maharaja's younger days, and instructed him in sword exercise and horsemanship. He was present with the Maharaja in most of his earlier campaigns. Indar Singh's father, Sher Singh, received the title of *Ustad*, or master, for his proficiency as a swordsman, and was a respected official at Ranjit Singh's Court, also taking part in many expeditions on the Bannu and Peshawar frontiers. On one occasion, before Atock, he received a bad gun-shot wound in the thigh.

The younger members of the family continue to follow soldiering as a profession, and many of them are now serving in Cavalry regiments. Sardar Indar Singh's son Tej Singh served as an Orderly to Sir West Ridgeway when recently employed as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the settlement of the Afghan Boundary.\*

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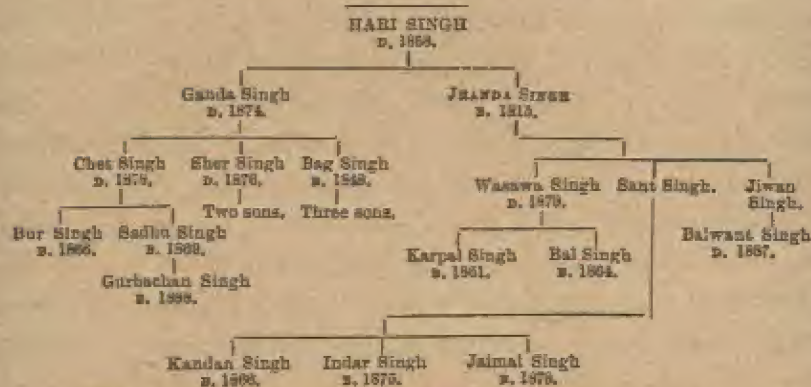
\* His services in this capacity are thus modestly described by his father: "He suffered greatly from dust-storms on the river Hamon while pitching up tents of his European officers dropped down by the gale. On Chashma Sabaz, while taking provisions for his European officers amidst the falling snow, he, being exposed to severe cold and, chilled to the bone, became half dead. With the due care of his noble-minded European officers and his native companions he was restored to life again." For these and other services he was promoted to a Deputy Inspectorship of Police on his return to the Panjab.

Sardar Indar Singh's younger son Jalmeja Singh is a Jamadar in the 1st Panjab Cavalry. Indar Singh's brother Rajindar Singh rendered valuable service at Lucknow during the Mutiny, being present at the First Relief and taking part in many of the dangerous episodes of the Campaign. He served also in Abyssinia, in the First Black Mountain Expedition and in the Afghan War, dying shortly after his return from Kabul in 1881. His family were granted a special pension of Rs. 312 per annum in recognition of the Sardar's splendid services. One of his sons, Khushal Singh died while serving in the 10th Bengal Lancers. Another son, Lal Singh, is a Dafadar in that Regiment. A brother, Dalip Singh, serves as Rasaldar in the Bahawalpur State Cavalry, and was present throughout the late Afghan Campaign. Karpal Singh, a cousin, is a Dafadar in the Guide Corps. Three others of the family are serving with the 19th Bengal Lancers, while many of the older members are now at home enjoying pensions, well earned after years of hard service all over India. They have managed to save sufficient to make themselves comfortable; and the family may be described as in flourishing circumstances. Sardar Indar Singh owns six hundred bigas of land in Rakh Ladhar, close to his village of Tahtar in the Lahore Tahsil, granted to him in 1887. He has also a jagir in seven hundred bigas of the same Rakh, of which he purchased the ownership rights from Government. He further owns seven hundred bigas in Tahtar over and above his ancestral share. This latter consists of one-fourth of six hundred bigas in Tahtar, of a well and garden at Sandah, Tahsil Lahore, and of one hundred bigas at Balighari, Tahsil Sharakpur. His three brothers own each a third share in six hundred bigas of the Ladhar Rakh, separate from Indar Singh's property.

Sardar Indar Singh is a Viceregal Darbari of the Lahore District.

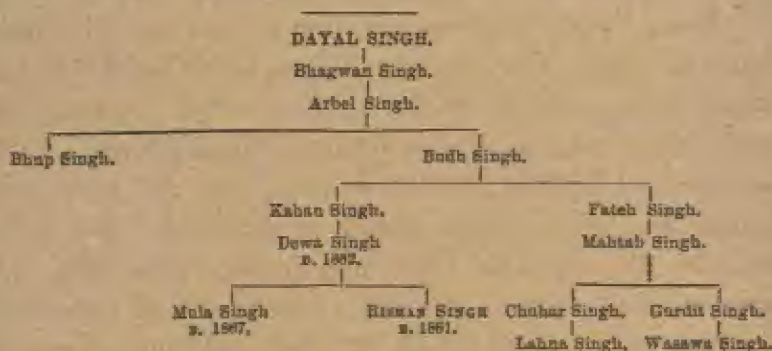


## JHANDA SINGH PHILUWASIA.



This Sindhu family does not require any particular notice. Amir Singh, a good soldier, was killed at Manchar, and his brother Karam Singh at Daska in 1810. The four sons of Karam Singh served in the Orderlies and in Raja Hira Singh's Brigade. Three of the family, Amir Singh, Dal Singh and Ganda Singh, joined the rebels at Peshawar in 1848, and their jagirs were confiscated. The sons of Hari Singh, who died in 1857-58 and whose jagir was maintained for his loyalty in 1848, held a jagir nominally worth Rs. 500, though its value was reduced in the late Settlement to about Rs. 300 per annum. Ganda Singh, the elder son, died in 1874. His son Bag Singh succeeded him in the jagir share. The family hold eighty-four ghumaos of land in Philuke, Gujranwala, and sixty-seven ghumaos in Sajada and Rangilpur, Tahsil Lahore. Bal Singh, grandson of Jhanda Singh, is the only member of the family who has sought employment. He is serving in the Hong-Kong Police Force.

## BISHAN SINGH SIDHU.



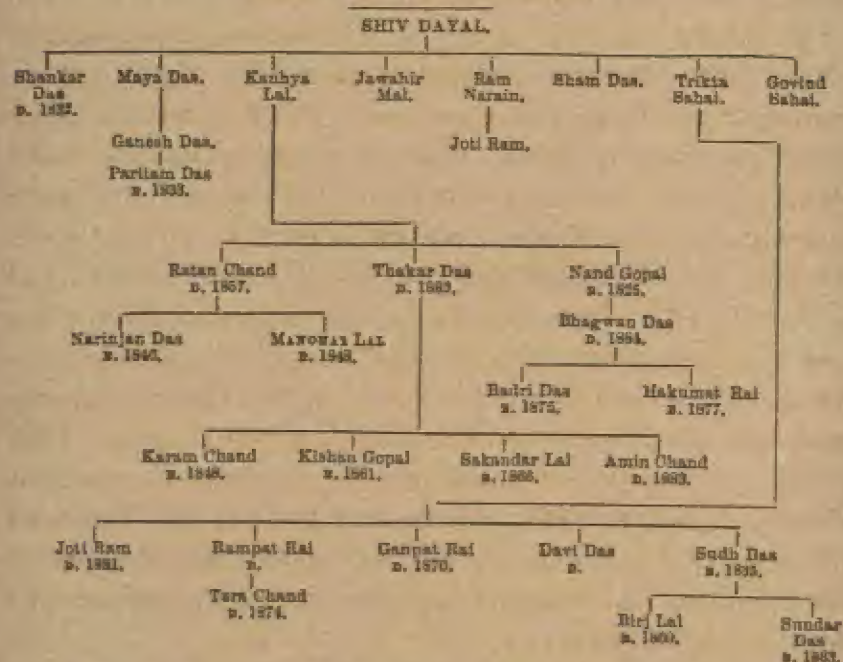
Dayal Singh was the first of this branch of the Sidhu family to become a Sikh, and was killed in battle near Anandpur in 1698. His son Bhagwan Singh supported himself as much by plunder as by agriculture; and his grandson, Arbel Singh, having built a fort at Sidhu, and having collected some two hundred horsemen, contrived to make himself master of forty surrounding villages. He had connected himself with several of the powerful neighbouring Chiefs, marrying one son to a daughter of Sardar Gujar Singh of Lahore, and another to a daughter of Sardar Sudh Singh Dodia; so that he was not disturbed in his modest possessions. His son Budh Singh, who succeeded him, was less fortunate, for Sardar Amir Singh of Sowrian, his kinsman, having invaded the estate and carried off a large quantity of plunder, Budh Singh pursued him, and was killed in an ambuscade laid by the enemy. Shortly afterwards Ranjit Singh seized most of the Sidhu territory, leaving in the possession of Kahan Singh about fifteen villages subject to the service of twenty-five sowars. He also made Kahan Singh Commandant in a Cavalry Regiment, and gave Fateh Singh a subordinate appointment. Fateh Singh was killed in the Kangra Campaign in 1809; and his jagir was given to his brother Kahan Singh who, however, did not enjoy it long, as



he fell, with Jamiat Singh and other members of his family in the unsuccessful Kashmir expedition of 1814.

Dewa Singh, who was an infant at the time of his father's death, received a grant of four villages, worth Rs. 3,000, for his maintenance, subject to the service of four sowars, and in 1838 was placed in Prince Kharak Singh's force. In 1848 he remained faithful to Government, and did good service against the rebel Dhara Singh of Gogaira. His villages, Bhudan, Bhatianwala, Dhar and Diloki, worth Rs. 2,500, were released to him for life on payment of two-fifths as nazarana; and on his death Bhudan and Bhatianwala were maintained in perpetuity to his heirs on payment of one-third nazarana. He died in 1882. His elder son Bishan Singh lives at Budhanke in the Shakarpur Tahsil, Lahore. He and his brother lately petitioned that, as the value of the jagirs in Budhanke and Bhatianwala had fallen by reduction in the assessment to Rs. 593 per annum, they were entitled to have made up to them one thousand rupees as stipulated in the Sanad under which they were held. In their Sanad the revenue of the villages was stated to be Rs. 1,500, which they were to enjoy, subject to a nazarana deduction of one-third. It was however ruled that they must take according to the actual jama of the villages, independently of fluctuations at Settlement.

## MANOHAR LAL DOGAL.



About the year 1635, during the reign of the Emperor Shah Jahan, Baba Haria Ram settled at Wazirabad, which had lately been re-built by Wazir Khan, the Imperial Governor, who gave it his own name. Haria Ram served the Governor for many years, and when his sons grew up to manhood abandoned worldly affairs and founded a sect of his own, still extant and known by the name of *Harmilapi*.\*

The first of his descendants to take service with the Sikhs was Kishan Kaur, who was a follower of Sardar Gur-

\* This religious sect is better known on the frontier than in the Sikh part of the Panjab. Ram Kishan, *Chela* or follower, and adopted son of Swami Chetangir, came to Wazirabad at the beginning of the 18th century and took as his *Chela*, Haria Ram. Malawa Mal, a merchant of Dera Ismail Khan, visited Wazirabad, and was so struck with the piety and wisdom of Haria that he became a disciple and brought his whole wealth into the concern, which took the name of both friends, and is now known as Harmilapi. The head-quarters of the sect is at Dera Ismail Khan, and the present Mahant is Ram Piyara. One Thakardwara is at Chaniot, another at Chakowal. The disciples are of various castes: some have given up worldly affairs; others carry on business. The former wear clothes of a reddish brown colour.



baksh Singh Wazirabadia, the friend and ally of Sardar Charat Singh; and Shiv Dayal, son of Kishan Kaur, entered the employ of the Sukarchakia Chief. The revenue arrangements of the Sikhs were rude enough in these early days; and regarding Shiv Dayal's management of the Sukarchakia jagirs there is nothing to record. When Ranjit Singh conquered the Dhani country, he made Shiv Dayal the manager, and gave him an estate at Nurpur, subject to service. When an old man, he introduced his sons Shankar Das and Kanhya Lal at Court, and retired to Wazirabad, where he died. The brothers were placed under Prince Kharak Singh; Shankar Das for some time managing his jagirs, while Kanhya Lal was made Tahsildar or Kardar of Sahiwal, part of the estate of the Prince. When Diwan Moti Ram was appointed Governor of Kashmir, Shankar Das was sent as head of the Financial Office under him; and during Moti Ram's second tenure of office Kanhya Lal occupied the same post as his brother had done during the first.

Shankar Das died in 1832. When the salt mines of Pind Dadan Khan were made over to Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu, Kanhya Lal was appointed manager under him and held the post till 1834; and he and his eldest son Ratan Chand received a cash allowance of Rs. 2,000 from the salt revenue till annexation. Ratan Chand was a Darbar Munshi from 1831 to 1849. He was, with his brother Thakar Das, in favour at Court, and received jagirs which, in 1850, amounted to Rs. 10,302. He was, when quite a youth, appointed to the charge of the Maharaja's Private Seal,\* and held the office with its emoluments for several years. He was afterwards made Com-

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\*The Seal of which Ratan Chand had charge was the Maharaja's small private signet. Both this and the large Seal were affixed to most documents. The Keeper of the small Seal received an allowance of two per cent. on all khilats and money-presents made by the Maharaja, and of five per cent. on all new jagirs; but of the income thus raised, a certain proportion was taken by the Government. Besides Ratan Chand Dogal, the Seal was kept at different times by Ram Chand, great-nephew of Diwan Sawan Mal, by Harsukh Rai (afterwards General), by Ratan Chand Darhiwala and others.

mandant in the Ghorchara Khas, and Thakar Das took his place for a short time as Keeper of the Seal. The latter, when Nao Nahal Singh was in power, was appointed Manager of Dhani, Kalar Kahar and Rupowal on a salary of Rs. 4,320 per annum. During the reign of Maharaja Sher Singh the brothers held various offices at Lahore; and Ratan Chand became a man of considerable influence. He was fined Rs. 40,000 by Pandit Jala in 1844; but this was remitted through the intercession of Bhai Ram Singh. He accompanied Raja Lal Singh to Jamu in February 1845, and was with the party of Sardar Fateh Singh Man when that Chief, with Wazir Bachna, was assassinated by Raja Gulab Singh at Jammu; and he was himself detained for some days as a hostage for the conduct of the army.

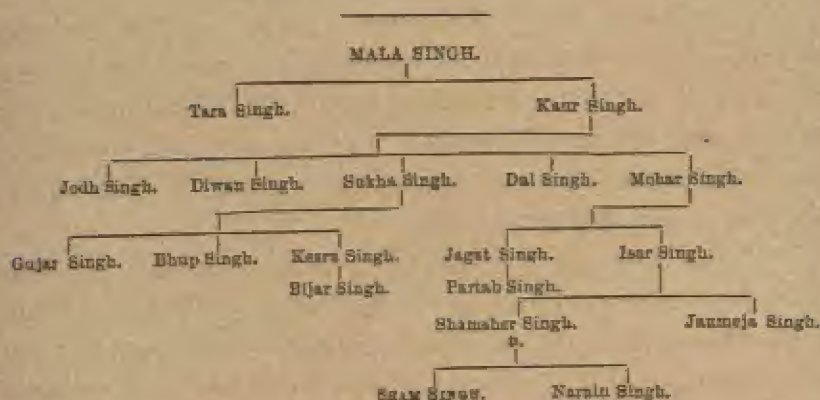
During 1848-49 the action of Ratan Chand was somewhat doubtful, and his jagirs were resumed, with the exception of two gardens, one at Lahore and the other at Wazirabad, upon which he had expended much money. These were released in perpetuity; and he also received a life pension of Rs. 3,600. Govind Sahai, his uncle, and Joti Ram and Ganga Ram, his cousins, received each a pension of Rs. 100, and Ganesh Das Rs. 375. Thakar Das received a pension of Rs. 360. He died in 1883 leaving four sons. Karam Chand, the eldest, was for a short period employed as a Munserim in the Peshawar Settlement. He now looks after the family property. His brother Kishan Gopal is a Naib-Tahsildar at Sialkot. The family jointly own one thousand and two hundred acres of Rakh Sardarpur, eight hundred and sixty acres in Haripur and thirty-three acres in Wazirabad, all in the Gujranwala district, yielding an annual income of about Rs. 3,000. Unfortunately a dispute has arisen amongst them as to the terms of their father's will; and a law-suit is now pending which threatens to swallow up the profits of the estate for some years to come.



Nand Gopal, the youngest brother of Ratan Chand, was taken into Government service as a Darbar Munshi in 1840, and in 1845 was made Paymaster of the Force of Sardar Kahan Singh Koharia, brother-in-law of Raja Lal Singh, with the service jagirs of Pathanwali, Thata and Chakmobarik, worth Rs. 2,520. He accompanied the force under Raja Sher Singh Atariwala to Multan in 1848, and was believed to have joined the rebels; but himself stated that his loyalty to his Government caused him to be seized and imprisoned by Sher Singh, and that he was only released through the influence of Diwan Hakim Rai, whose brother, Mutsadi Mal, his sister had married. It is certain that Nand Singh came in before the final battle of Gujrat, and his excuses were accepted. Since annexation he has been in Government service, first as Kotwal at Gujranwala and Sialkot, then Tahsildar of Wazirabad and Moga successively. He was made Court Inspector of Police in 1861; and at the present time is at his home enjoying a well-earned pension after thirty-seven years' active service. He owns about four hundred and fifty acres of land in Wazirabad.

Ratan Chand died in 1857 leaving two sons, Manohar Lal and Narinjan Das. They enjoy in perpetuity a mafi grant of the value of Rs. 80 per annum, consisting of a garden and well in the Lahore Tahsil, and they are joint owners of one hundred and ten ghumaos of land in Tahsil Wazirabad, Gujranwala. Manohar Lal is, in addition, sole proprietor of one hundred and sixty-five ghumaos in Mauza Haripur, Wazirabad. He took service in 1872 as Naib-Tahsildar, and is now a Tahsildar in the Gujranwala district.

## SARDAR SHAM SINGH MARI.



The Mari family is of the Shergil tribe, the origin of which has been elsewhere related.\* By this tribe several villages were founded in the Lahore and Amritsar districts, and among others, Malanwala, Dewa, Dewa Masur and Mari. At the first-named of these the family of Shamsher Singh resided till the Durani invasion, when, the village having been destroyed by the Afghans, Mala Singh fled to Dewa Masur, which he made his head-quarters, and from whence he conducted marauding expeditions till he fell in a skirmish with the imperial troops, leaving two sons, Kaur Singh and Tara Singh, the former of whom became a powerful Chief. He joined the Bhangi Sardars Khushal Singh and Budh Singh Faizulapuria, and took possession of territory in the Jalandhar Doab and to the south of the Satlaj. Leaving his sons, Jodh Singh, Diwan Singh and Sukha Singh, to hold these estates, Kaur Singh returned to his ancestral village of Mari, half way between Amritsar and Firozpur, where he built a mud fort,

\*The Gills, who have no Chief of any importance in their ranks, inhabit the Lahore, Amritsar, Gujranwala and Firozpur districts. A romantic story is told of Gil, the founder of the tribe, as that regarding his son Shergil. He was the son of a Rajput Chief, Prithipat or Pirthipal, by a Jat woman, and, like Shergil, he was exposed when an infant in a swamp, 'gdi,' from which his name Gil is derived.



traces of which still exist ; and his name is perpetuated in the village, which is known as Mari Kaur Singhwala.

When Ranjit Singh seized the country south of Lahore, the fort of Mari, then held by Mohar Singh, the youngest son of Kaur Singh, was besieged by him. Resistance was useless ; and Mohar Singh gave up the fort and territory, obtaining favourable terms and large estates at Piru Chak, Bujhara, Samra and Manapur.

Sardar Kaur Singh died shortly after this, and the Cis-Satlaj estates were seized by the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhag Singh Ahluwalia and Jodh Singh Kalsia. The descendants of Jodh Singh, Sukha Singh and Diwan Singh are still resident in the Ambala district, where they hold a few villages.

Mohar Singh with his brother Dal Singh held the jagir for some years exempt from service ; but it was, later, made subject to one hundred horsemen. Mohar Singh served in the Kashmir Campaign, in which he was wounded. He distinguished himself at the battle of Teri in 1823, after which he was placed in command of five hundred cavalry. He was engaged under General Ventura in 1831 in annexing the possessions of the Bahawalpur Chief north of the Satlaj,\* and the next year he died ; while half the estates in Sialkot, Dinanagar and Kasur were continued to his son Isar Singh. There is little to record of this Chief, who served with his contingent at Kulu, Suket, Hazara and Peshawar, at which latter place he died in 1843, of fever.

Shamsher Singh held the jagirs throughout the administration of Hira Singh, Jawahir Singh and Lal Singh. He

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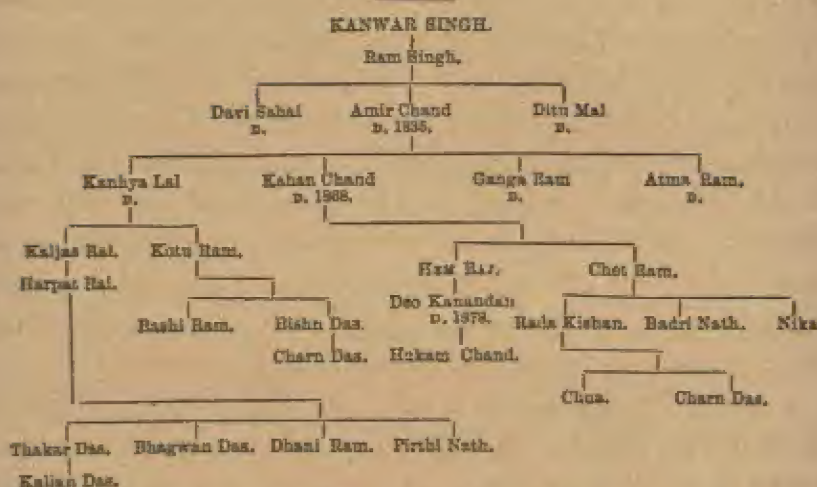
\* Soon after the death of Bahawal Khan II. in 1811, Ranjit Singh demanded tribute for the Bahawalpur territory north of the Satlaj. Sadik Mahomed Khan sometimes refused payment altogether, and always resisted till he succeeded in gaining more favourable terms. First Rs. 50,000 a year was asked ; then a lakh ; and the demand was raised till, at Sadik Mahomed's death, five lakhs, which was about as much as Bahawal Khan III., who succeeded Sadik Mahomed in 1826, could raise from the country, was demanded. The Khan neither could nor would pay ; and in 1831 General Ventura occupied the territory, pledging himself to pay eleven lakhs the first year to Government.

accompanied Raja Sher Singh Atariwala to Multan in 1848, and rebelled with him. Although a very young man, he possessed ability and influence, and his whole jagirs, worth Rs. 27,000, were confiscated, and in 1850 a pension of Rs. 720 was allowed him for life. To his younger brother Janmeja Singh, who had married Tej Kaur, daughter of Sardar Chatar Singh Atariwala, the young lady to whom Maharaja Dalip Singh had been betrothed, a life pension of Rs. 360 was granted. In 1860 a rent-free holding was granted to Shamsher Singh worth Rs. 200. He also had proprietary rights in Mari Kaur Singhwala and Kazi Chak. He has recently died, leaving two sons, neither of them of much standing.

Gujar Singh, Bhup Singh and Kesra Singh, sons of Sardar Dal Singh, were cavalry officers under General Avitabile. They are all dead; and the widows of Colonel Bhup Singh draw an allowance of Rs. 720 from Government.



## HEM RAJ.



This family originally came from Multan ; and several members of it served the Imperial Government at Lahore and elsewhere. Both Amir Chand, the father, and Ram Singh, the grandfather, of Kahan Chand were servants of Sardar Sahib Singh Veglia. The former, after the establishment of the Sikh monarchy, became a revenue officer under Misar Diwan Chand, on whose death he received a military command under Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa. He died at Lahore in 1835, at a very advanced age.

Kahan Chand entered Government service in 1823, soon after the battle of Teri, as a Secretary. He became known for honesty and ability, and in 1830 received a grant of two wells at Butala, and the village of Kala in Sialkot, together worth Rs. 600 a year ; and in 1834 he obtained Mangat, worth Rs. 500. In this year Kahan Chand was raised to the post of *Murasala-Navis*, or despatch writer. This was an office requiring some talent, and would only be given to a Munshi in whose honesty the fullest confidence could be reposed. This secret correspondence was conducted,

under the direct orders of the Maharaja, by Fakir Azizudin, and, later, associated with him were Bhai Ram Singh and Bhai Govind Ram.

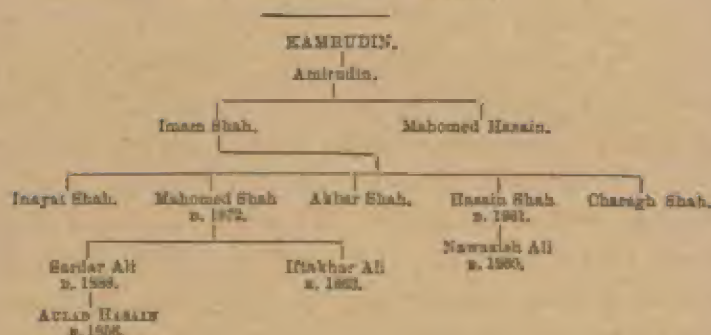
The *Dera Khas*, or Body Guard, a regiment containing many of the young Sikh Sardars and the pick of the Khalsa army, was first raised by Kahan Chand. He had neither the health nor knowledge necessary for its command, which was held by his brother Ganga Ram for a short time till the regiment was placed under Raja Hira Singh. Kahan Chand was not one of those affected by the revolutions that followed the death of the great Maharaja. He held his office and his emoluments intact; and some Multan estates which had been granted to him at Nidhal were exchanged for others of equal value; Rs. 1,400 at Bankli, Lakra, Nangli Kalan and Nangli Gujran. After the Satlaj Campaign his Jalandhar estate, in the territory ceded to the British Government, was lost, and in lieu of it he received the estate of Kaka in Wazirabad, worth Rs. 3,000. On the annexation of the Panjab his jagirs were resumed, and he received a pension of Rs. 1,200, which ceased at his death in 1868.

His eldest son Hem Raj enjoyed an allowance of Rs. 360 per annum from Maharaja Ranjit Singh, which under Sher Singh was increased to eleven rupees per diem. In 1841 he was appointed as a Darbar Munshi, and rose by degrees to be Sanad Writer, Sherishtadar to the Darbar and head Residency Munshi. In 1840 his jagirs and cash allowances, valued at Rs. 7,438 per annum, were resumed, and in lieu a cash pension of Rs. 360 was allowed him for life. He resides in Lahore.

The family is no longer of any importance, social or political. Most of the younger members are engaged in trade or are petty office holders in various Government departments at Lahore.



## SAYAD AULAD HASAIN.



The family of Mahomed Shah is of Persian descent. Kamrudin was an officer in the army of Nadir Shah and accompanied that Chief to India, remaining behind as a settler in the neighbourhood of Dehli when the invading army retired. He afterwards went to live at Gango in Saharanpur, where he died in 1764. Amirudin then left for Lucknow, where Suja Daula was Nawab; and entered his service, first as Thanadar and afterwards as a revenue collector. Failing to pay the Government demand he was thrown into prison; and, though released after a short time, did not obtain fresh employment till the occasion of Asafa Daula in 1775. He was murdered at Pabli by some Gujars in 1798; and his son Imam Shah, fearing the same fate, left for Lucknow, where he lived for some time with an old retired officer of Artillery, by name Bahadar Khan, who taught the lad all that he knew. As he could get no employment at the Court of Oudh, Imam Shah determined to seek his fortune elsewhere. Hearing that Hindustanis were in request in Kabul he proceeded thither; but at Wazirabad in the Panjab he met Sardar Jodh Singh, who easily induced him to enter his service as Jamadar of Artillery. The next year the Sardar died; and Imam Shah then entered the army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and fought in many battles as Colonel of

Artillery. He served throughout the reign of Ranjit Singh and his successors, and was killed at Sobraon in 1846.

Mahomed Shah, his second son, was made a Commandant of Artillery when eighteen years of age. He fought in the Satlaj Campaign, and under the Darbar was successively posted at Pind Dadan Khan, Hasan Abdal and Hazara. In 1849, when the 5th Panjab Cavalry was first raised, Mahomed Shah was appointed to it, and served in this Regiment till 1859. On the Frontier he was known as a first-rate officer both for bravery and intelligence. As senior native officer of his squadron he served throughout the siege and capture of Dehli, the relief and capture of Lucknow, the capture of Bareilly, and the actions of Bilandshahar, Fatahgarh, Agra and Aligarh. He received the Order of British India for his gallantry at Agra; where, seeing a squadron of the Fifth in danger of being cut up by a shower of grape, he galloped forward alone and cut down the artilleryman who was about to fire the gun. When Lieutenant Younghusband was killed near Fatahgarh, Mahomed Shah cut down the sepoy who had fired the fatal ball. By the side of Major Sandford, who succeeded Lieutenant Younghusband in command of the Squadron, Mahomed Shah fought with conspicuous courage; and when that officer fell, he protected his body, buried it decently, and built over it a tomb. The most valued of the many testimonials received by Mahomed Shah is a gold watch sent from England by the relatives of Major Sandford, in acknowledgment of his devotion.

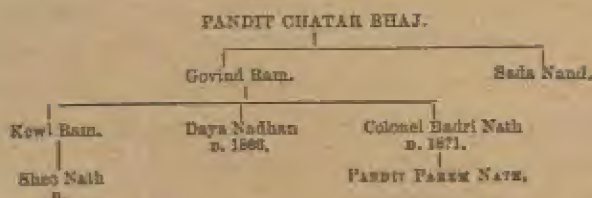
In January 1859 Mahomed Shah was appointed Commandant of the 3rd Oudh Military Police under Captain C. Chamberlain. His services were specially asked for by this officer, who knew his worth, his energy, and his thorough knowledge of his Military duties. When the Military Police were broken up in November 1859, he was made Commandant



in the new Police, and held the post with credit till February 1861, when, on reductions being made in the force, he took his discharge.

Mahomed Shah received the title of Sardar Bahadar. He enjoyed a pension of Rs. 1,800 cash and a life jagir of Rs. 2,000 in the Baraich district. He was the author of a creditable work on cavalry tactics. He died in 1872, leaving two sons and three daughters. The management of the property was vested in the eldest son, Sardar Ali ; but his affairs became involved shortly after his father's death, and the interests of the other children suffered in consequence. In 1882 he was appointed Tahsildar at Faizabad, Oudh, and was transferred four years later to the Jaunpur district as Inspector of Police. He died in 1888. His youngest brother, Iftakhar Ali, is a Sub-Inspector of Police in Jaunpur, North-West Provinces. The jagir has passed to Aulad Hasain, only son of Sardar Ali. One of Mahomed Shah's daughters married Sayad Abas Ali, Munsif of Amritsar. Mahomed Shah's brother Hasain Shah was for some years a Deputy Inspector of Police at Dehli. He died in 1881, leaving one son, Nawazish Ali, who is working in the Settlement Department at Gurdaspur.

## PANDIT PAREM NATH.



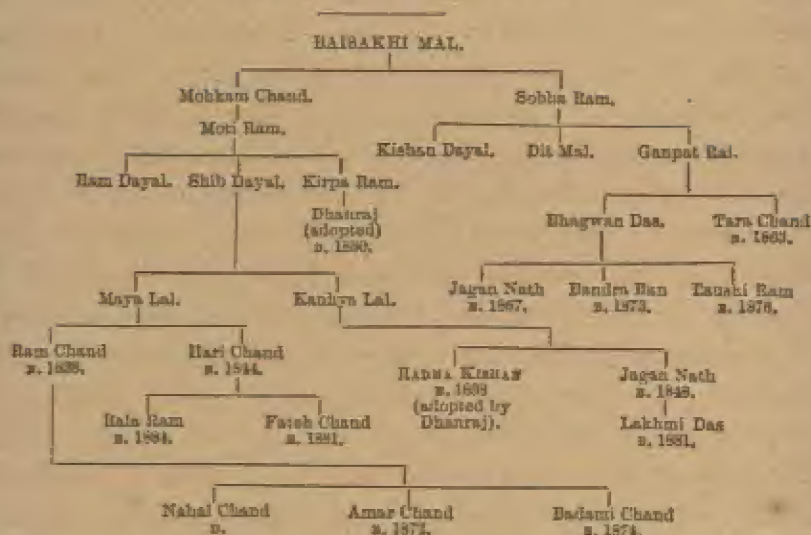
Colonel Badri Nath was one of the Sikh officers who on the annexation of the Panjab transferred their services to the British Government. His father was a native of Kashmir, and emigrated to the Panjab at the beginning of the present century. In 1821 Badri Nath entered the Maharaja's army as a private soldier, and gradually rose through all the grades of the service till, in 1835, he was made Colonel, which rank he held till the Second Sikh War. He saw plenty of fighting during these years, and was in the campaigns of Swat, Peshawar, Hazara, Yusufzai, Bannu, Tira, and numerous actions. For long he served on the frontier; six years in charge of the forts of Dera Ismail Khan and Tank. He was with Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa in 1833, when that Chief, in the most masterly manner, won Peshawar from the Barakzais. In 1845 he was stationed in Hazara, under Diwan Mulraj Dilwalwala, with the Katar Mukhi Regiment and some Gurkhas. In 1846 he accompanied Major H. Lawrence to Kashmir, where Shekh Imamudin Khan was in revolt, and the next year went with Lieutenant Edwardes to Bannu. He served throughout the siege of Multan with the *Katra Mukhi*; and after the close of the war retained his command till, on the introduction of the new Police, he took his discharge. Colonel Badri Nath was known as a brave and able officer, and the force under him was always in good discipline. In 1857, the Fort of Multan, the Magazine and the Treasury were entrusted to his Corps, and the



Regiment also furnished detachments which fought against the mutineers and insurgents with gallantry and credit. In 1861 the Government, in sanctioning his retirement, granted him a life pension of Rs. 600, inclusive of the allowance attached to the Order of British India, which he obtained in 1857 in recognition of his loyalty and gallantry. The allowances lapsed at his death in 1871.

His son Prem Nath took service as a clerk in the Ordnance Department. In 1872 he was appointed an Inspector of Post Offices, and is now Manager of the Dead Letter Office, Lahore, on a salary of Rs. 250 per mensem.

## DIWAN RADHA KISHAN.



The most distinguished of the Generals, by whose skill and courage Ranjit Singh rose from a subordinate Chiefship to the Empire of the Panjab, was Diwan Mohkam Chand. The sagacity with which the Maharaja selected his officers was the reason of his uniform success. Mohkam Chand was no soldier by birth; his father was a trader and, according to Hindu custom, the son would have been a trader too, had he not, when quite young, been offered a post as Munshi by Sardar Dal Singh Gil, of Akalgarh. He is said indeed to have served with Mahan Singh, father of Ranjit Singh, at the siege and capture of Rasalnagar, and to have gained there his first military experience; but this does not seem true. He remained with Dal Singh till 1804, when that Chief died, and his estates were seized by Ranjit Singh. Sahju, the widow of the Sardar, disliked Mohkam Chand and demanded his accounts, as, for many years, he had held the entire management of the Akalgarh property; but the Diwan did not care to expose them to a close and unfriendly scrutiny,



and left for Gujrat, where Sardar Sahib Singh Bhangi gave him employment. But with this Chief he soon quarrelled, and in 1806 left Gujrat for Lahore, where Ranjit Singh, appreciating his talents, made him Chief of the army, much to the annoyance of the Sikh Sardars. The same year he led the army across the Satlaj, and first seized Zira, which was for some time defended by the widow of Sardar Mohar Singh Nishanwala. He then reduced the possessions of Jagat Singh Buria, Mukatsar and Kot Kapura, being aided by a traitor in the camp, Sodhi Jawahir Singh, father of Guru Gulab Singh of Manawar, then Dharmkot; and he then marched to Faridkot, from the Chief of which he obtained tribute, on the way seizing Mari from Hari Singh and Arbel Singh, brothers-in-law of Tara Singh Ghaiba. In October 1806 he accompanied Ranjit Singh in his expedition against Patiala, in alliance with Raja Bhag Singh of Jind, when Ludhiana, Jhandiala, Badowal, Jagraon, Kot, Talwandi, Saniwal and other districts were seized; some being made over to the Raja of Jind, some to Jaswant Singh of Nabha, and the remainder in jagir to the Lahore Sardars Gurdit Singh, Fateh Singh Ahluwalia and Mohkam Chand.

In 1807 Tara Singh Ghaiba died, and his large possessions in the Jalandhar Doab were seized and divided between Gharba Singh and Mohkam Chand. The latter, in the three years 1806, 1807, 1808, received in jagir portions of the Ilakas of Gila, Kot, Jagraon, Talwandi, Dharmkot, Kot Kapura, Zira, Faridkot, Saniwal, Jandbar, Bharampur, Dhari and Chandpur, comprising two hundred and sixty-eight villages and worth Rs. 1,54,255 a year. He was also made Governor of the Jalandhar Doab; and at Philaor, on the right bank of the Satlaj, he built for the Maharaja the fort which still commands the passage of the river, on the site of an imperial sarai. The Rahon and Nakodar country, worth Rs. 6,42,611, was also made over to him in jagir. The British had in 1809 made Ludhiana a

military cantonment; and General Ochterlony, the Resident stationed there, did not find Mohkam Chand a pleasant neighbour, for he hated the English, who had made the Satlaj the bound of his master's ambition. Early in 1810 he accompanied Ranjit Singh to Multan, the attack upon which was unsuccessful, and afterwards reduced the country held by Kahan Singh Nakai. In 1811 he was sent against Bhimbar, and returned to Lahore, having extracted Rs. 40,000 from the Rajput Chiefs in the hills above Gujrat. Some of the Jalandhar Chiefs now showing a disposition to rise, he returned to Philaor and quickly restored order, much to the Maharaja's satisfaction, who created him Diwan, bestowing on him at the same time valuable khilats. It was at this time that the Diwan annexed the territories of Sardar Budh Singh Faizulapuria, valued at upwards of three lakhs of rupees. For long the Maharaja had desired his overthrow; and his refusal to attend at Court gave a colourable excuse for attacking him. His forts of Jalandhar and Pati were reduced, and the Sardar fled to Ludhiana for safety. Strangely enough, the two Chiefs who brought their forces to aid the Diwan in this expedition were Fateh Singh Ahluwalia and Jodh Singh Ramgarhia, although they were said to have formed an alliance with Budh Singh Faizulapuria to resist Ranjit Singh should he attack either of them. But it was perhaps to postpone an attack on themselves, which they saw was imminent, that they joined the Diwan in his attack on Jalandhar. They were now the only independent Chiefs of importance between the Satlaj and the Indus; and Mohkam Chand urged his master to abolish, in a great measure, if not altogether, the feudal tenure, and to take the whole country under his direct authority. But the time for so radical a change as this had not arrived.

In 1812 the Diwan reduced Kulu; and was then despatched to Kashmir, ostensibly to explain away the hostile movements of Prince Kharak Singh and Bhaiya Ram Singh,



but in reality to spy out the land and ascertain whether it was ripe for conquest. But another man, whose ambition was not less than that of Ranjit Singh, was preparing to attack Kashmir. This was Fateh Khan, the Minister of Shah Mahmud of Kabul, who, seeing an alliance with the Sikhs was necessary to his success, invited the Maharaja to join forces and, with him, invade Kashmir. This was agreed to; and Diwan Mohkam Chand and Fateh Khan marched from Jbilam together. But the Afghan had no intention of allowing the Sikhs any large share either in the conquest or in its results, and had only carried on negotiations to secure the Maharaja's neutrality. No sooner had the force reached the Pir Panjal, than he, without consulting Mohkam Chand, or informing him of his intention, pressed on by double marches with his hardy mountain troops, while the Sikhs, never of much use in the hills, were unable to move owing to a heavy fall of snow. The Diwan saw the design of Fateh Khan, but he was not disconcerted. He promised the Rajaori Chief a jagir of Rs. 25,000 if he would show him a Pass by which he might reach the valley at the same time as Fateh Khan, which he contrived to do with a handful of troops under Jodh Singh Kalsia and Nahal Singh Atari. The Diwan was thus present at the capture of Sher Garh and Hari Parbat and the reduction of the valley, which was a work of no difficulty; for Ata Mahomed, the Governor, had fled, and little resistance was offered. But his force was too weak to be of much assistance, and Fateh Khan declared that the Sikhs were not entitled to a third share of the plunder as had been agreed upon. Shah Shuja, the ex-Prince of Kabul, was made over to the Diwan, who brought him to Lahore, where he was received with every appearance of respect; but Ranjit Singh, savage at his disappointment in Kashmir, and thinking hospitality to one in misfortune superfluous, robbed him of the famous *Koh-i-Nur* diamond and his other jewels, and detained him under surveil-

lance till April 1815, when he made his escape. The Maharaja, when he heard that Fateh Khan would not divide the spoil of Kashmir, was very wroth and determined on revenge. He opened negotiations with Jahandad Khan, brother of Ata Mahomed, the late Governor of Kashmir, who held the fort of Atock, which commanded the passage of the Indus, and induced him to surrender it to a Sikh force. It was now Fateh Khan's turn to be angry, and he demanded the restoration of the fort; but Ranjit Singh refused until he should receive his share of the Kashmir plunder. The Wazir, in April 1813, set out from Kashmir and invested Atock. Forces were hurried up from Lahore, first under Karam Singh Chahal, and then under Diwan Mohkam Chand. For long the armies lay opposite each other; the Sikhs suffering somewhat in the frequent skirmishes and not liking to force on a general engagement till the garrison of the fort had exhausted its supplies and it was necessary to relieve it or abandon it altogether. The Diwan then determined on fighting; and at Haidaru, a few miles from Atock, he drew up his force in order of battle. The ball was opened by a brilliant cavalry charge led by Dost Mahomed Khan, afterwards the celebrated ruler of Kabul, which broke the Sikh line. One wing was thrown into complete disorder and some guns captured. The Afghans, thinking the victory won, dispersed to plunder, when the Diwan led up his reserves in person and drove back the enemy at all points with great loss. Fateh Khan had already fled, believing Dost Mahomed to be slain; and the Afghan army, driven out of Khairabad, retired upon Kabul, from whence the Wazir led an expedition against Hirat to endeavour to recover the reputation he had lost before Atock. The battle of Haidaru was fought on the 13th July 1813.

While Mohkam Chand was engaged on active service, his son Moti Ram managed the Jalandhar Doab. His grandson Ramdayal, though at the time only twenty-two years of age,



was already distinguished for ability and bravery ; and in May 1814, when the Maharaja determined to again invade Kashmir, he was appointed to command one division of the army. Against this expedition the Diwan remonstrated in vain. He urged that the season was not propitious ; that no supplies had been collected on the road ; that the Hill Rajas were hostile ; but when he saw that Ranjit Singh was determined to try his fortune, he asked leave to accompany the army. But Mohkam Chand was now very old, and his health was failing, and the Maharaja desired him to remain at Lahore and preserve order during his absence. The Sikh army was massed at Sialkot, and from there marched to Rajaori, the Raja of which place recommended that the force should be divided : one portion, under the Maharaja in person, marching by way of Punch ; the second, under Ramdayal, Dal Singh Naharnah, Jamadar Khushal Singh and other Sardars, marching through the Bahramgala Pass. This advice was unfortunately followed ; and Ramdayal with his division crossed the Pir Panjal and descended into the valley, where Azim Khan with his whole force gave them battle. The Sikhs fought well, but they were outnumbered and driven back with great loss. A repulse was, in their case, as disastrous as a total defeat : they had no reinforcements at hand and no supplies. Bhaiya Ram Singh was sent by Ranjit Singh to the assistance of the detachment ; but he was a timid man, and when he heard of Ramdayal's repulse he halted for a day or two at Bahramgala and then retired. The Maharaja now found that he must retreat himself, leaving Ramdayal to his fate. The retreat soon became a flight. The hill tribes disputed the passage of the army ; and heavy rain came on, making the road all but impracticable. But at length, with great loss of men and officers, among the latter the brave Mit Singh Padhanian, the Maharaja fought his way out of the hills and retired to Lahore. Although the disasters which had befallen

the expedition were in a great measure owing to the rashness and precipitancy of Ramdayal, yet he retrieved matters as far as was possible. He held his own in the Kashmir valley with such determination that Azim Khan was compelled to come to terms, allowing him a safe conduct, and even admitting, in a written document, the supremacy of Lahore.

In October of the same year Diwan Mohkam Chand died at Philaor, to the grief of the Maharaja and the whole Sikh nation. As a General he had been almost always successful; his administrative talents were as great as his military ones; and in his death Ranjit Singh lost his most loyal and devoted servant. But there were other good men left in the family. Moti Ram was created Diwan in his father's room, and the Jalandhar Doab was entrusted to him, with the charge of the fort at Philaor. Ramdayal, with Dal Singh Naharna, was sent against the Kharals of Gogaira, and to take tribute from Multan and Bahawalpur; and the next year against Rajaori to punish the treachery of Raja Agar Khan during the expedition of 1814. Agar Khan tried to buy forgiveness; but Ramdayal would not listen to terms, and sacked and burnt both the town of Rajaori and the palace of the Raja. The next year he was sent northwards to watch the movements of Fateh Khan, who had joined his brother Azim Khan in Kashmir, returning to Kabul the next year. Hukman Singh Chimni was at this time in charge of the Atock fort, and it was as much as Ramdayal and he could do to keep in order the Mahomedans of Hazara and Yusufzai, who were instigated to revolt by Fateh Khan: and on one occasion Ramdayal was all but defeated by them.

In the spring of 1819 the Maharaja, taking advantage of the absence from Kashmir of the Governor, Azim Khan, determined again to attempt its reduction. The leader of the Sikh army was Misar Diwan Chand, the conqueror of Multan, while Ramdayal commanded the rear division. The latter



was prevented from marching by the heavy rain and had no share in the fighting. Little resistance was, however, made. Zabar Khan took to flight; and the province of Kashmir was annexed by Ranjit Singh to his dominions, Moti Ram being appointed the first Governor. Ramdayal was then sent against the Raja of Punch; and when Bhai Makhan Singh was killed in Hazara and Hukma Singh Chimni, the Governor, recalled, he was sent there to restore order. This was no easy matter. The tribes had been thoroughly exasperated by the conduct of Hukma Singh, and their successes had given them confidence; and when Ramdayal had penetrated as far as the fort of Gandgarh he was surrounded by numbers of the enemy, the Afghans of Miswari, Srikot, Torbela, Yusufzai and Swat, and compelled to fight. Through the whole day, from sunrise to sunset, the battle was fought against enormous odds by the Sikhs; and at night, completely worn out, they retired to their entrenchments. Last to leave the field was Ramdayal; and the enemy, perceiving that he was separated from the main body of the army, made a sudden dash and cut off and surrounded his party. The Sikhs fought desperately, but in vain; and Ramdayal was killed and all his escort. The Sikhs in dismay at the death of their General struck their camp and retreated in all haste from Hazara.

The death of Ramdayal was a great grief to his father, who desired to give up the Kashmir government and retire to Banares. The Maharaja was not unwilling to permit the Diwan's resignation, and appointed as his successor Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa, the most dashing soldier in the Khalsa army, now that Ramdayal was dead. But the Kashmiris and hill tribes could not endure the tyranny of the Sardar; and after one year Moti Ram was re-appointed Governor, and held the post till 1826. The Diwan was a man of some ability and was liked by the people; but he was indolent

and apathetic, and his administration was not marked by any event of importance, except the advent of the cholera, which then visited Kashmir for the first time and decimated the population. While Moti Ram was in Kashmir, his son Karpa Ram managed the Jalandhar Doab, and Shiv Dayal lived on his jagir in the Gujrat district. Raja Dhian Singh was jealous of the wealth and power of the family, and persuaded the Maharaja to grant the estate of Siba, near Philaor, to his brother-in-law Ram Singh. Karpa Ram was so much irritated at this slight that, when he was directed to join the Peshawar expedition with his whole contingent, he only brought fifty horsemen. The Maharaja was furious. He imprisoned Karpa Ram; recalled Moti Ram from Kashmir, and sent there, as the new Governor, Diwan Chuni Lal; while the fort of Philaor he made over to Fakir Azizudin, and later to Sardar Desa Singh Majithia. It was not for a year and a half that the family was again taken into favour, and then only on payment of a heavy fine. Karpa Ram was now sent to Kashmir as Governor, superseding Chuni Lal. His administration was tolerably successful. He was an extravagant man and fond of display, but, at the same time, of a gentle disposition. The Rambagh garden at Srinagar, in which Maharaja Gulab Singh's monument stands, was laid out by him, as were also many other gardens in the neighbourhood of the capital. In 1828 the valley suffered very much from earthquakes. Private and public buildings were destroyed, and the inhabitants forsook the towns for the greater security of the mountains. After the earthquakes came the cholera even worse than in the days of Moti Ram. The cholera was followed by the rebellion of the Raja of Muzafarabad; but Karpa Ram marched against him and completely defeated him. These were the only events of the administration. In 1831 Karpa Ram again suffered from the enmity of Raja Dhian Singh. He had given protection to Raja Faiz Talab



Khan of Bhimbar, whom both the Dogra brothers hated and wished to capture, while Karpa Ram resolutely refused to give him up. Dhian Singh accused Karpa Ram of contumacy and embezzlement, and had so much influence with the Maharaja that the Diwan was recalled from Kashmir and again imprisoned; while the Jalandhar Doab was taken from Moti Ram and given to Misar Rup Lal, after Shekh Ghulam Mohaiudin had been tried in Hushiarpur and found wanting. At this time Moti Ram was absent at Simla, where he had been sent with Hari Singh Nalwa and Fakir Azizudin on a mission to the Governor-General. On his return he tried to make peace between Raja Dhian Singh and his son, who had been released on payment of a nazarana of nine lakhs of rupees; but seeing this impracticable, and weary of public life, he retired to Banares, where he died in 1839. Karpa Ram served in Bannu in 1832, and then finding the enmity of Dhian Singh as great as ever, while his influence at Court increased day by day, he asked permission to join his father at Banares. The permission was refused, and Karpa Ram determined to go without it. He went on an assumed pilgrimage to Jawala Mukhi; and from there, crossing the Satlaj into British territory, he journeyed to Banares, where he remained till his death in 1842. He left no son of his own, but he had adopted Dhanraj, whom he left the sole agent of his still large jagirs, worth four lakhs of rupees.

When Karpa Ram left the Panjab, his brother Shiv Dayal, who had been appointed Governor of Gujrat, and his sons, kept their appointments; Kanhya Lal acting as Deputy to his father and Maya Lal holding an office at Court. The latter accompanied Shekh Ghulam Mohiaudin to Kashmir as Treasurer in 1841; but on his father's death, three years later, returned to Kunja, where he succeeded to the estate, worth Rs. 12,000. He did good service during the rebellion of 1848, and has since the annexation of the Panjab acted as

Thanadar of Jalandhar and Gujrat. In 1858 he was appointed Tahsildar of Harapa in the Gogaira district, but did not hold the appointment for any length of time. He resides at Kunja, and is not now in Government employ. Kanhya Lal filled the office of Kardar in several districts during Sikh rule. His eldest son Radha Kishan was Thanadar of Peshawar until the re-organization of the Police, when he received his discharge.

Dhanraj, the adopted son of Karpa Ram, was Colonel of the 2nd Regiment of the old Sikh army at Peshawar. When Sardar Chatar Singh took the field, he was sent by Colonel George Lawrence to prevent the Sardar passing the Indus. He succeeded at the time, but subsequently his men deserted and he had to retrace his steps. After annexation he was appointed Tahsildar at Peshawar, becoming ultimately an Extra Assistant Commissioner. He rendered excellent service during the Mutiny, and was rewarded with the grant of half the revenues of Kunja, worth Rs. 1,300. At the Imperial Assemblage in 1877 he received the title of Honorary Assistant Commissioner. His death occurred in 1880. Colonel Dhanraj adopted Radha Kishan, grand-nephew of Karpa Ram, his own adoptive father. The jagir, of course, lapsed; but as a special case, and in deference to the express wishes of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Viceroy permitted a departure to be made from the established principle, and granted a portion, valued at one thousand rupees, to Radha Kishan. He resides at Kunja in Gujrat, and is a Sub-Registrar of the district. His name is not on the list of Darbaris. Maya Lal's son Hari Chand is a Munsif in the Hushiarpur district.

Regarding the other branch of the family, a few words will be sufficient. Sobha Ram, brother of Mohkam Chand, was for some years in the Maharaja's service, and left to his three sons, Kishan Dayal, Dit Mal and Ganpat Rai, a jagir of



Rs. 5,000 in the neighbourhood of Kunja, with the village of Gidarkot. Both Dit Mal and Ganpat Rai accompanied Shekh Mohaiudin to Kashmir, and remained in his service and that of his son Imamudin Khan for three years as Kardars. During the rebellion of 1848 the brothers served under Major Edwardes, and behaved well, and on the annexation of the Punjab were taken into Government employ. Dit Mal was first made a Tahsildar, and subsequently Extra Assistant Commissioner. He died without issue.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



AMRITSAR DISTRICT.





## SARDAR BAKHSHISH SINGH SINDHANWALIA.



The two principal families in the Panjab Proper, highest in rank and possessing the widest influence, are the Ahluwalia and the Sindhanwalia. The possessions of the Ahluwalia Chief are almost entirely situated in the Jalandhar Doab; whilst of all Sikh families, between the Bias and the Indus, the Sindhanwalia Chief is the acknowledged head. Nearly

related to this family was the great Maharaja himself; and it was in a great measure owing to their connection with him that the Sindhanwalia Sardars obtained so large a share of wealth and power.

The Sindhanwalias are of the Jat Sansi tribe and, like most Jats, claim a Rajput origin, and state that their ancestor, a Bhati Rajput, by name Shal, came from Ujain to the Panjab, where he founded Sialkot. The Bhaties do not appear, however, to have settled so far south as Ujain; and the Shal alluded to is doubtless Raja Shal, or Salvahan, son of Raja Gaj of Jasalmir, who, after his father's death in battle with the King of Khorasan, came to the Panjab, where he destroyed Lahore and rebuilt the town of Sialkot,\* which place he made his capital.

Salvahan introduced a new era, called the *Shaka*, according to some, in memorial of a victory which he gained over Vikramaditya, near Sialkot. But Salvahan was not a contemporary of Vikramaditya, who never came to the Panjab at all. The *Shaka* era was founded in the one hundred and forty-sixth year of the era of Vikramaditya.

Raja Salvahan had sixteen sons, all of whom became independent, and from whom many of the hill Princes have descended. The chief of them were Baland, Puran, Risalu, Dharamgadh, Rupa and Sundar.

The houses of Patiala, Nabha, Jind, Malod, Bhadaur, Faridkot, Kaithal and Atari have descended from the eldest son of Jaudhar, the fifth from Raja Salvahan or Shal; while

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\* Sialkot is one of the most ancient towns in the Panjab. It is said to have been founded about 3400 B.C. by Raja Shal, maternal uncle of the Pandus, whose descendants reigned there for many hundred years. It then was abandoned until Salvahan rebuilt it, according to Panjab chroniclers, about 99 A.D.; according to the Bhati chroniclers of Rajputana, 18 A.D. Supposing that Sialkot is the original Salvahana, the capital of Salvahan, and the identity of the two places seems probable, Sialkot has been also known as Shalkot, Salkant, Sakalpur and Risalk\* (from Rimla the son of Salvahan.) The Sial Rajputs, who now inhabit the country about Jhang, claim to have founded Sialkot, and to have given to the town their name. That they once settled there and built a fort seems certain; but the town was founded many years before their arrival in the Panjab.



the Sindhanwalias pretend that they and the Mahomedan Bhatias have descended from the second son.

The origin of the family name of Sansi is thus related by the Sindhanwalias. Sohanda, sixth in descent from Jaudhar, saw all his children die, one after another, within a few days of their birth. He accordingly consulted the Brahmans and astrologers, who told him that he must give his next child to the first person who should come to the house after its birth. In due time a son was born, and the first person to stop at Sohanda's house, after the event, was a beggar of the Sansi tribe; and to him, in spite of the mother's entreaties, the new-born child was given. The old beggar would have preferred money or food; but he took the child away with him. However, by the next day he had had quite enough of it, and brought it back to Sohanda, who after a second consultation with the Brahmans took the child, who was from this adventure called Sansarpal or Sainhsarpal (cherished-by-the-Sansi); and the name has belonged to the family ever since. Another story states that the wife of Sohanda was taken in labour at a considerable distance from her home, and was compelled to take refuge in a Sansi village, where she received every attention and remained till she had recovered. The son born under these circumstances was called Sansi. But, from a comparison of the Sindhanwalia genealogy with that of the Bhatias, it appears probable that Sans was the name of a son of Bhoni, fourth in descent from Jaudhar, and that from Sansi the Sindhanwalias and the Sansis have a common descent. The Sansis are a thievish and degraded tribe; and the house of Sindhanwala, naturally feeling ashamed of its Sansi name, has invented a romantic story to account for it. But the relationship between the nobles and the beggars does not seem the less certain; and if the history of Maharaja Ranjit Singh be attentively considered, it will appear that

much of his policy and many of his actions had the true Sansi complexion.

Raja Sansi, the present residence of the Sindhanwalias, was founded about the year 1570 by Raja and Kirtu; and Khokar, the great-grandson of Kirtu, settled in the Taran Taran waste, and founded there several villages. From Wigah, grandson of Khokar, have descended, on one side the family of Sindhanwala and, on the other, that of Ladwa. The grandson of Wigah, by name Takht Mal, received from the Emperor Alamgir a firman, still in possession of the family, making him Chaudhri, with power to collect revenue in the Ilaka of Yusufpur. This firman, however, is unattested, and may be a modern forgery. Bhara Mal, son of Takht Mal, seems to have been a Sikh of the unorthodox sect called *Sahaj Dhari*; and although he never took the *pahal* (initiatory rite), he wandered through the villages preaching the doctrines of Govind. His son Budha Singh, an orthodox Sikh, was celebrated as a bold and successful robber. In his days cattle-lifting was as honourable a profession as it was on the Scottish border three hundred years ago; and Budha Singh, on his famous piebald mare *Desi*, was the terror of the surrounding country. He was wounded some forty times by spear, matchlock or sword, and died at last in his bed, like an honest man, in the year 1718. His two sons Chanda Singh and Nodh Singh were as enterprising and successful as their father. About the year 1730 they rebuilt the village of Sukar Chak, which had been founded some time previously by the Gil Jats, but had fallen into ruin, and, collecting round them a band of hard-riding Sikhs, seized several villages in its neighbourhood, and even made marauding expeditions across the Ravi into the Gujranwala district. Nodh Singh was killed in 1763 in a fight with the Afghans at Majitha, where he had gone to celebrate his marriage in the family of Gulab Singh Gil.



His son Charat Singh, who was only five years old at the time of his father's death, became a very powerful Sardar, and rose to the command of the Sukarchakia Misal. Under him fought his cousin Didar Singh at Gujuranwala, Pind Dadan Khan and elsewhere. After Sardar Mahan Singh had succeeded his father, and had taken Rasulnagar and Gujuranwala, Sardar Didar Singh obtained, as his share of the spoil, Pind Sawakha, Dalot and Sindhanwala, which last village has given its name to the family. He was killed in a skirmish on the banks of the Chanab in 1784, and his tomb is still to be seen in the village of Doulat Nagar.

Sardar Amir Singh, with his brothers Gurbakhsh Singh and Ratan Singh, succeeded to all the estates of his father, and soon contrived to enlarge them. He continued to follow the fortunes of his cousins, the Sukarchakia Chiefs, and as they, Mahan Singh and Ranjit Singh, rose to power he seized with impunity Bal Sehchandrar and other villages in the neighbourhood of Raja Sansi. In 1803, however, Amir Singh fell into deep disgrace at Court. The story is, that one morning, as Ranjit Singh came out of the Samam Burj and was preparing to mount his horse, Amir Singh was seen to unsling his gun, prime it and blow the match. The bystanders accused him of seeking the life of his Chief, and Ranjit Singh, who believed the charge, dismissed him from Court. He took refuge with Baba Sahib Singh Bedi of Una, at whose intercession, after some time, Ranjit Singh again took him into favour, and placed him specially under the protection and in the force of Sardar Fateh Singh Kalianwala.

Amir Singh accompanied the Maharaja in the Kasur Campaign of 1807, and in the expedition against the Mahomedan tribes between the Chanab and the Indus in 1810. In this expedition Jaimal Singh, his second son, was killed in a skirmish before Kila Khairabad. In 1809, when on the

death of Raja Jai Singh of Jamu, Ranjit Singh seized that country, he made over to Amir Singh the Ilakas of Harnia, Naunar and Rata Abdal. Two years later Amir Singh introduced into the Maharaja's service his son Budh Singh, who soon became a great favourite at Court.

The first independent command of Budh Singh was at Bahawalpur, whither he had been sent to enforce the payment of the stipulated tribute. In 1821, with his father and brother Atar Singh, he captured the forts of Mojgarh and Jamgarh. For these services Amir Singh received Shakargarh in jagir, and Budh Singh, Kalar and Nirali, worth about a lakh of rupees. Previous to this the family jagirs in Chach and Atock had been exchanged, at their request, for the Ilakas of Saroh Talwan, Khotar and Kathunangal, worth Rs. 1,80,000.

Sardar Budh Singh was after this sent to the Jamu hills in command of two regiments of infantry and one of cavalry, and afterwards reduced the Thainawala country. He was in command of a portion of the Sikh army at the battle of Teri in 1823. Two battles were indeed fought at Teri. The Maharaja commanded in person on the left bank of the Kabul river, and he defeated the Yusufzai fanatics, losing however, Phula Singh Akali and some good officers. On the right bank of the river was the main body of the Sikh army commanded by Hari Singh Nalwa, Jamadar Khushal Singh, Sardar Budh Singh and others, and the opposing force of Afghans commanded by Mahomed Azim Khan, who was defeated with loss, and died within the year of chagrin.

In 1825 the Maharaja was in the Rambagh at Amritsar dangerously ill. His life was despaired of, and he had become wholly unconscious. Sardar Budh Singh, who saw that on the death of Ranjit Singh the country would again be divided into separate Chiefships, and supposing the Maharaja to be



dying, determined to make provision for himself. He went at night with a force to the fort of Govindgarh and demanded admittance in the name of the Maharaja. The Jamadar of the gate, Daya Ram, would not admit him without orders. Budh Singh accordingly went back, and induced by large bribes the Keeper of the Seal to draw out an order for the fort to be given up to him; and to this the seal was affixed. Budh Singh returned to the fort; but the Jamadar was not to be deceived. He would not look at the order, and declared that so late at night he would not open the gates to the Maharaja himself. The Sardar had to retire discomfited; and in the morning Imamudin, the Kiladar, told the Maharaja, who had in some measure recovered, the whole affair. The result was that Budh Singh was given the Peshawar command, and sent into the Yusufzai country against Khalifa Sayad Ahmad, a fanatic who was preaching a *jahad*, or holy war, against the Sikhs; the Maharaja hoping that he would leave his bones in the Yusufzai hills and never return to disturb him.

Budh Singh crossed the Kabul river in advance of the main body and encamped at Akhora, where he threw up entrenchments; but during the night he was attacked by the enemy, and only succeeded in beating them off with a loss of five hundred killed and wounded. Sardar Atar Singh Sindhanwalia was present on this occasion and displayed much gallantry. The next day the Sikh army moved on nine miles to Jangirah, where it was joined by the Dogra Chiefs and the Atari Sardar with their troops, which, together with those of Sardar Budh Singh, amounted to some ten thousand men with twelve guns. Their entrenchments were soon surrounded by the large but undisciplined army of the Sayad, composed of Kabulis, Yusufzais and Afghans. For some days the Sikhs remained in their entrenchments exposed to the incessant assaults of the enemy, till at length, the supplies and the

patience of Budh Singh being exhausted, he led his men against the enemy, and after a severe fight defeated them with great slaughter. The Sayad took refuge in the Yusufzai hills; and it was two years before he recovered his strength sufficiently to again take the field. After this success Sardar Budh Singh returned to Lahore, where he was received with all honour; but a few months later, at the close of 1827, he died of cholera. The Maharaja wrote a letter to his family expressing his grief at the Sardar's death and his regret that so brave a man should have died in his bed like common mortals. Sardar Budh Singh was one of the bravest and most skilful of the Sikh Generals. At the time of his death there was a rumour that the Dogras had poisoned him; but there is not the smallest foundation for the story.

Amir Singh died before his son in the same year; but all the jagirs, amounting to upwards of six lakhs, were continued to Sardars Atar Singh, Lahna Singh, Wasawa Singh and Shamsheer Singh. Atar Singh succeeded his brother in the Darbar; and his strength and courage were so great that, after the death of Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa in 1837, he was considered the champion of the Khalsaji.

In the same year Atar Singh was sent to Peshawar with his contingent, and Lahna Singh to Shabkadar. They did good service, and were engaged in constant warfare with the wild tribes in the neighbourhood. Atar Singh obtained the title, as long as complimentary, of *Ujal didar, Nirmal budh, Sardar ba wakar, Kasir-ul-iktadar, Sarwar-i-giroh-i-namdar, Ali tabai Shajau-daula, Sardar Atar Singh, Shamsheer-i-jang, bahadar*; and Sardar Lahna Singh the title of *Ujal didar, Nirmal budh, Sardar ba wakar, Sardar Lahna Singh, Sindhanwalia, bahadar*. The jagirs and power of the family continually increased till the death of Maharaja Kharak Singh; when, though nominally in possession of seven lakhs of country, they really possessed between nine and ten.



At this time Atar Singh was the head of the family, both by age and ability; Lahna Singh was a man of energy, but illiterate and debauched; Ajit Singh, his nephew, was brave enough, but headstrong and rash; whilst Shamsheer Singh was averse to politics, and was absent at Peshawar with his troops.

When Prince Nao Nahal Singh was killed, by accident or design, the same day that his father died, two claimants appeared for the vacant throne. The first was Rani Chand Kaur, widow of Maharaja Kharak Singh; the second, Prince Sher Singh, a reputed son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, a brave soldier and possessing some influence with the army. The claims of Chand Kaur were supported by the Sindhanwalia party, including Bhai Ram Singh, Sardar Tej Singh and his uncle Jamadar Khushal Singh. Sher Singh was favoured by the Dogra party, at the head of which was Raja Dhian Singh and his brothers Rajas Gulab Singh and Suchet Singh, with Misar (afterwards Raja) Lal Singh and others. Between the Sindhanwalia and the Dogra parties the greatest enmity existed. Both had possessed great power and influence during the latter years of Ranjit's reign, and each looked with jealousy and suspicion upon its rival. But the ambition of the Sindhanwalias had been united with attachment to the reigning family and devotion to the State; that of the Dogra brothers had ever been selfish. There are perhaps no characters in history more repulsive than Rajas Gulab Singh and Dhian Singh. Their splendid talents and their undoubted bravery count as nothing in the presence of their atrocious cruelty, their avarice, their treachery and their unscrupulous ambition.

At the time of Prince Nao Nahal Singh's death, Atar Singh was at Hardwar, and Lahna Singh and Ajit Singh in Kulu. On the news reaching them, Atar Singh and Ajit Singh both hastened to Lahore.

Rani Sahib Kaur, widow of Prince Nao Nahal Singh, was pregnant at the time of her husband's death; and Raja Dhian Singh, seeing that, in the temper of the Sikh people, it would be well to wait, agreed that Sher Singh should retire to his estates, leaving his son Partab Singh in the Darbar, professedly for eight months, till it was seen whether a son would be born to Sahib Kaur or to any other of the Ranis; in reality till he, Dhian Singh, should gain over the troops to the side of Sher Singh.

Early in January, Sher Singh, hearing that the army was well disposed towards him, and hoping to gain Lahore without the aid of Dhian Singh, whom he both hated and feared, appeared with his troops before the city. Raja Gulab Singh, however, determined that Sher Singh should not succeed without his brother's aid, joined the Sindhanwalias and prepared to defend the fort. The history of the siege of Lahore is too well known to be repeated here. For seven days the garrison held out bravely against the whole Sikh army, which lost in the assault a great number of men; and it was not till Raja Dhian Singh returned from Jamu that negotiations were opened, by which Sher Singh ascended the throne, and Rani Chand Kaur resigned her claim. Gulab Singh, laughing in his sleeve at the success of his and his brother's plans, marched off to Jamu amidst the curses of the Sikh army, carrying with him a great part of the treasure, principally jewels, which Maharaja Ranjit Singh had stored in the fort, and which plunder, five years later, helped to purchase Kashmir.

Sardar Atar Singh then went as an agent of Rani Chand Kaur to the Governor-General's Agent at Ludhiana to try and induce him to support their party, but he was not successful; and Ajit Singh then tried his persuasive powers with equally bad success. He then travelled to Calcutta, but was not able to obtain audience of the Governor-General.



The object of their absence was well understood at Lahore ; and Sher Singh confiscated all the jagirs of the family, with the exception of those of Sardar Shamsher Singh, who had not joined in the intrigues of his relatives. He sent Budh Singh Mahra, and Hukam Singh Malwai to Kulu, where Lahna Singh was in command, to bring him to Lahore with his nephew Kahar Singh ; and on their arrival threw them into prison. The other members of the family, except Shamsher Singh, then crossed the Satlaj and took refuge at Thanesar, in British territories. But the exile of the Sindhanwalias occasioned Maharaja Sher Singh as much anxiety as their presence. They carried on their intrigues at Lahore ; and the army, which they had often led to battle, murmured at the severity with which they were treated. Sher Singh was accordingly ready to listen to the sinister advice of Bhai Ram Singh, who urged their recall ; and in October 1842 Sardars Ajit Singh and Lahna Singh, who had been some time before released from confinement, returned to Lahore, and all their jagirs were restored to them. Atar Singh remained at Una in the Hushiarpur district, in sanctuary with Bedi Bikrama Singh. He had no faith in Maharaja Sher Singh or in the Jamu Rajas. Nor, to tell the truth, was it any love for these latter that induced Ajit Singh and Lahna Singh to return. They had, doubtless, a longing for their fat jagirs ; but they had heard of the murder of Rani Chand Kaur, the head of their party and the reputed mistress of Ajit Singh, by Sher Singh and Dhian Singh ; they heard that Rani Sahib Kaur had been delivered of a still-born son, and the Lahore bazars were whispering that it was not the interest of Sher Singh and Dhian Singh that the child should be born alive.

All at first went on smoothly. Vainly did Dhian Singh try to persuade the Sindhanwalias that his interest had procured their recall ; they knew his hatred for them, and determined upon his fall. The plot of the Sindhanwalias was a

bold one. They were for no half measures. Maharaja Sher Singh and his Minister Dhian Singh were to fall together; and the Sindhanwalias, having gratified their revenge, would wield the whole power of the State as guardians of the young Dalip Singh. Raja Dhian Singh had also a policy which was no less energetic. He desired to destroy Sher Singh and the Sindhanwalias, and secure for himself the Regency and, in the event of any accident happening Dalip Singh, a probable throne for his son Hira Singh.

The Sindhanwalias persuaded the Maharaja that Dhian Singh had determined to destroy him, and that his safety could only be secured by the death of the Minister; that they, the Sindhanwalias, his relations and friends, were the only persons he could trust, and that they were ready to make away with the obnoxious Minister. Sher Singh believed this story, which was one half true, and signed a paper exonerating them from the guilt of Dhian Singh's murder, and arranged the manner of its execution. Some days later, Ajit Singh and Lahna Singh were to parade their troops before the Maharaja for inspection, when Dhian Singh was to be directed to examine them, and the Sidhanwalias were to take this opportunity of putting him to death. The same night that this arrangement was made with the Maharaja, Lahna Singh and Ajit Singh paid a visit to Raja Dhian Singh. They told him that Sher Singh had determined, first on his destruction, and then on theirs, and called on him to assist in his overthrow. When Dhian Singh saw the paper that Sher Singh had signed, he agreed to the Sindhanwalias' proposal; and it was arranged between them that on the day of the inspection the victim to fall should be the Prince and not the Minister.

It thus appears that the Sindhanwalias were the originators of the conspiracy against Sher Singh. They themselves assert that Dhian Singh visited Ajit Singh and Lahna Singh and, telling them that the Maharaja had determined to destroy



them, urged them to join in a plot against his life. But this story is in no way probable. Sher Singh desired to conciliate the Sindhanwalias not to destroy them. He had but recently restored their jagirs and honours, and he looked to them, and to them alone, as his defence against the Jamu Rajas, Dhian Singh and Gulab Singh, whom he feared as much as he hated. The Sindhanwalias knew this well, and they would never have believed that the Maharaja was plotting against them.

The 15th September 1843, the day for the inspection of the Sindhanwalia troops, at length arrived. The Maharaja had gone to spend the day at a summer-house at Shah Balawal, half-way between Lahore and Shalamar, and thither Sardars Ajit Singh and Lahna Singh proceeded. They entered the presence fully armed; but this was not unusual. Sher Singh was in the small room of the house with but one or two attendants, and Diwan Dina Nath was reading State papers aloud to him. Ajit Singh paid his respects and, coming forward, presented for the Maharaja's inspection a double-barrelled gun which, he said, he had just purchased. Sher Singh, who was fond of fire-arms, stretched out his hand to take it, when Ajit Singh, who had kept the muzzle directed towards the Prince, fired both barrels, which had been loaded with a double charge, full in his breast.

The Maharaja had only time to cry "*I kya dagha hai?*" (What treachery is this?), when he fell back and expired. His attendants attacked the assassins; but they were few in number and were soon overpowered. Sardar Budh Singh Mokerian was killed on the spot, his cousin severely wounded, and several others were cut down by the Sindhanwalias.

Not far from Shah Balawal was the garden of Sardar Jawala Singh Padhania. Here Prince Partab Singh, eldest son of the Maharaja, a handsome and intelligent boy, was performing his devotions and distributing alms to Brahmans; for it was the first day of Asoj, and the monthly festival of

*Shakrand.* To this garden Lahna Singh hurried with some troops. The Prince saw him approach with a drawn sword, and cried out "Babaji, I will remain your servant" (*tumhara naukar main rahunga*). Lahna Singh answered, "Your father is killed," and ran the boy through with his sword. At the same time were killed Atar Singh Parohit, in attendance on the Prince, and several Brahmans.\*

While this tragedy was being enacted in Jawala Singh's garden, Ajit Singh had cut off the Maharaja's head and, mounting his horse, had galloped off towards Lahore with three hundred followers. At the spot where is now the Badami Bagh, he met Raja Dhian Singh riding slowly towards Shah Balawal with Fateh Khan Tawana and a few attendants. He told the Raja that all had gone off well, and requested him to ride back with him to Lahore. The Raja may have had suspicions, but it was useless then to show them; so he turned his horse's head towards the city. By the Roshnai gate they entered the city, and on passing into the fort the gates were shut.

As they rode up the ascent Ajit Singh asked the Minister what arrangements he intended to make. He answered "Dalip Singh shall be Maharaja, I Wazir, and the Sindhanwalias shall enjoy power." Again Ajit Singh asked the question; but the same answer was returned. In his extremity Dhian Singh would not promise the Wazarat to one of the hated Sindhanwalias. But he now saw from Ajit Singh's demeanour that his death was determined on, and he turned to address the Sardar, who cried out, "You are the murderer of the Rani Sahib," and fired at the Raja with his pistol. The attendants of Ajit Singh then cut him down

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\* The story of the assassination of Sher Singh and Partab Singh has been told in various ways. It is believed that the above version is the correct one. Eye-witnesses of the tragedy, who have been questioned, are unanimous as to its truthfulness, and among these may be mentioned Diwan Ajudhia Parshad, who was with Maharaja Sher Singh at the time of his death, and Ram Malawa Mal, Wakil of the Raja of Kapurthala, who was in the garden of Jawala Singh when Prince Partab Singh was murdered.



with their swords, and threw his body into the pit of the gun foundry in the fort. Ahmad Khan Ghaiba, who was in attendance on Dhian Singh, was killed with him. Lahna Singh soon afterwards arrived, and the Sardars then wrote to Raja Suchet Singh the brother and Raja Hira Singh the son of the murdered Minister, requesting their presence at a consultation in the fort. The Rajas, however, were not to be entrapped, and soon the news of the murder got abroad. Raja Hira Singh, who has been himself accused of conspiracy against his father's life, now determined to avenge his death, and addressed the troops and, by extravagant promises, gained them over to his side; and by evening the army of forty thousand men had surrounded the fort which the Sindhanwalias had determined to defend to the last. These Chiefs had proclaimed Dalip Singh King, and Lahna Singh Wazir; but they felt that their chance was lost, and but feebly defended the fort against the first attack of Hira Singh. When, however, the walls had been breached, and the enemy advanced to the assault, the Sindhanwalias fought with desperation; but they had but a few hundred men, and the works were carried, though with great loss. Ajit Singh tried to escape by letting himself over the walls by a rope; but he was seen by a soldier and, in spite of his lavish promises of reward if his life was spared, was shot dead. His head was cut off and taken to Hira Singh, who ordered his body to be quartered and exposed in different parts of the city. The soldier who slew him was made a Subadar. Lahna Singh, whose thigh had been broken by a shot from a *Zambura* early in the day, was discovered hiding in a vault, and was also ruthlessly murdered. Dalip Singh was then proclaimed King, and Hira Singh Wazir. Thus ended the tragedy.

Raja Hira Singh, on obtaining power, confiscated all the jagirs of the Sindhanwalia family except those of Sardar

Shamsher Singh, who was at Peshawar and had not joined in the conspiracy. He destroyed Raja Sansi, the family seat, ploughed up the ground on which their palace had stood, and hunted down all their friends and adherents. The surviving members of the family, with Sardar Atar Singh, fled across the Satlaj. It does not appear that Atar Singh was aware of the lengths to which his brother and nephew were prepared to go; yet Hira Singh believed him to be privy to the whole conspiracy and determined on his destruction. With this object, he forged letters from many of the Chiefs and leaders of the army and sent them to Atar Singh, urging him to return to the Panjab, where he might recover his influence and destroy the Wazir. He also sent forged letters to Baba Bir Singh, a Guru much respected by the Sikhs, begging him to use his influence to induce the Sardar to return. The Princes Kashmira Singh and Pashora Singh were with Baba Bir Singh at this time, and Hira Singh hoped to destroy his three enemies at one blow. Both Atar Singh and the Baba were deceived; and the former crossed the Satlaj with his followers, and joined the camp of the Baba. The Sikh army would not hear of attacking the holy Guru, and Hira Singh had to use still further deceit. He assured the troops that Atar Singh had allied himself with the British, who were even now ready to cross the Satlaj and seize the Panjab. That if the army marched against him he would probably return to the Cis-Satlaj States without offering any resistance. The troops, thus cajoled, marched from Lahore, and all turned out as Hira Singh had hoped. By trickery a tumult was excited, and before the Sikh soldiers knew what they were about they were engaged in a regular fight with the Sindhanwalia force; the camp of the Baba was stormed, and he was killed by a cannon-shot in the action. Kashmira Singh was killed, fighting gallantly, and Atar Singh was shot by Sardar Gulab Singh Calcuttia. His death took place in May 1844.



Seven months later, Hira Singh himself was assassinated, and Sardar Jawahir Singh, the drunken brother of Rani Jindan, who succeeded him as Wazir, recalled the Sindhanwalias from exile and promised to restore all their jagirs. In March 1845 they received out of the old estate jagirs to the value of Rs. 1,76,000. Sardar Shamsheer Singh was recalled from Peshawar and placed in command of a brigade of regular troops, which he commanded throughout the Satlaj Campaign of 1845-46. He was appointed a Member of the Council of Regency in December 1846. In February 1848 the Resident at Lahore deputed Shamsheer Singh to the districts about Amritsar known as the Manjha, placing under him the civil and military establishments. This tract of country was infested by robbers, chiefly disbanded soldiers; and the Sardar, acting with considerable energy, restored to it some degree of quiet. Previous to this he had served for a short time at Bannu with Lieutenant Edwardes, in command of the Mariwala and Mokal levies. When Diwan Mulraj of Multan tendered his resignation, the post of Nazim, or Governor, was offered to Shamsheer Singh. He did not, however, seem willing to accept it, and it was finally given to Sardar Kahan Singh Man. Shamsheer Singh was on the outbreak of the rebellion sent down to Multan in command of one division of the Sikh army. He warned Major Edwardes of the disaffected state of the troops, and did his best to keep them faithful. Their mutiny at length took him by surprise; and he was carried off by Raja Sher Singh Atariwala into Multan, where before the whole Darbar he refused to join the rebel cause, and declared that he only owed obedience to the Maharaja. The next morning, the 15th September 1848, he succeeded in making his escape on foot from Sher Singh's camp, leaving behind him all his tents and elephants. On the road he was intercepted by two of the rebels, but he shot one, and the other took to flight. After

his return from Multan he rendered good assistance to General Wheeler, in furnishing information of the movements of Ram Singh, son of Shama, Wazir of Nurpur, who was in open rebellion.

After annexation the personal jagirs of Sardar Shamsher Singh, amounting to Rs. 40,250 per annum, were upheld for life; one quarter descending to his male issue in perpetuity. His service jagir of Rs. 30,250 was resumed. In 1857, during the Mutiny, Shamsher Singh raised a troop of one hundred and twenty-five horsemen, which formed part of Hodson's Horse, now the 9th and 10th Bengal Cavalry. In February 1862 he was made Magistrate in his own jagir. About the same time the portion of his jagir to descend in perpetuity was raised from one-quarter to two-thirds. Sardar Shamsher Singh had no children of his own, but adopted Bakhshish Singh, the second son of his first cousin Thakar Singh.

On the death of Sardar Atar Singh, his son Kahar Singh became the head of the family. But this Sardar was a man of no energy or ability. Most extravagant in his habits, he was surrounded by men who grew rich upon his follies. At Multan, where he served with his cousin, he remained faithful to Government, following his cousin's example; for he had no will of his own. On annexation his personal jagir of Rs. 26,000 was maintained to him, one-fourth of it to descend to his male issue. This jagir lapsed on the death of Kahar Singh, which took place in February 1864. His life had been much shortened by his intemperate habits. The jagir had been for a time in the hands of his creditors, and he himself had to pass through the Insolvent Court.

The two sons of Lahna Singh, Sardar Partab Singh and Thakar Singh also were confirmed in their personal jagirs. They were too young to be concerned in the rebellion of



1848-49. Partab Singh died in 1856 without issue, and his jagir of Rs. 10,565 lapsed to Government. Thakar Singh possessed an estate of Rs. 5,565, of which one-fourth was in perpetuity. Sardar Ranjodh Singh, son of Sardar Wasawa Singh, was a man of no character. He had a jagir of Rs. 15,840, of which one-third, Rs. 5,280, was in perpetuity. He died in June 1864, leaving one son. Sardar Shamsher Singh resided at Raja Sansi, about five miles north of Amritsar. He died in 1871, and was succeeded by his adopted son Sardar Bakhshish Singh, son of the late Sardar Thakar Singh, Sindbanwalia. Bakhshish Singh, being at this time a minor, was made a Ward of the District Court. Sardar Thakar Singh was appointed Manager and was invested with Magisterial powers within the limits of Raja Sansi. These powers were withdrawn in 1877.

In 1884 Sardar Bakhshish Singh attained his majority. In 1875 he married a daughter of Sardar Mahtab Singh Majithia, since dead; and in 1884 married, secondly, a cousin of the Raja of Faridkot. The Secretary of State sanctioned in 1866 the continuance in perpetuity of the jagirs awarded by Lord Canning to Sardars Shamsher Singh, Tej Singh and Bhagwan Singh. Shamsher Singh's jagir consisted of twenty-nine villages, the revenues of which amounted to Rs. 30,274, or, more properly speaking, Rs. 38,613, as the Sardar was allowed to collect the revenues in kind. Two-thirds of the jagir descended to Bakhshish Singh. The revenues at present amount to Rs. 31,300. In addition, the Sardar receives Rs. 6,000 per annum on account of water-advantage rate, and he is owner of the following lands:—1,395 ghumaos at Raja Sansi, 558 ghumaos at Tala Nangal, and 100 ghumaos at Dadupur, besides gardens and buildings at Lahore, Gurdaspur, Sialkot, Batala and Taran Taran. In 1889 Sardar Bakhshish Singh was invested with the powers of a Magistrate. He is a Member of the Ajnala Local Board.

Sardar Thakar Singh, son of Lahna Singh, was appointed an Extra Assistant Commissioner in 1865, and became manager of the estate of Bakhshish Singh on Shamsheer Singh's death in 1871. In 1877 he re-joined the Panjab Commission, but was in perpetual monetary difficulties. He visited England in 1885, and remained nine months as the guest of the Maharaja, Dalip Singh. In 1886, shortly after his return to India, he removed with his three sons, Gurbachan Singh, Narindar Singh and Gurdit Singh, and the remaining members of his family to Pondicherry, where he died in December 1887. His sons are still there. Gurbachan Singh, his eldest son, who had passed through a very creditable academical career, was appointed a Statutory Civilian, and at the time of his flight to Pondicherry was holding the appointment of Assistant Commissioner in the Panjab. The village of Sindhaswala is now owned by the descendants of Gurmukh Singh, brother of Sardar Amir Singh.



## SARDAR BALWANT SINGH ATARIWALA.



The family of Atari, like that of Sindhanwalia, is of Rajput origin, and emigrated to the Panjab from the neighbourhood of Jasalmir. But although of the same tribe of Bhati Rajputs, the families are not at this day of equal rank. Their Rajput characteristics have long been lost, and both

are now Jats. The Sindhanwalias, from their near relationship to Maharaja Ranjit Singh and their large possessions, were most powerful, and possessed greater influence at Court; but their caste is Sansi Jat, far inferior to the Atariwalas, who stand at the head of the Sidhu Jats, the best blood of the Manjha. This pride of birth was so strong in the family, that Sardar Sham Singh Atariwala, with the greatest reluctance, and only after numerous delays, allowed his daughter Naniki to be betrothed to Kanwar Nao Nahal Singh, grandson of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He considered the alliance as a disgrace.

Dhira, son of Jagnal, was the first of the family to leave Jasalmir for Mehraj Phul in Patiala, about the year 1580. Dhira was a great musician, and his name is still well known to Indian performers. About 1735 the family broke up, some members settling at Indgarh in Jagraon, and the two brothers, Gaur and Kaur, coming to the Manjha with twenty-five horsemen to seek their fortune. Soon afterwards they went to Amritsar and took the *pahal*, becoming Singhs, and entered the service of Gurbakhsh Singh Romanwala, then Chief of the Bhangi Misal. The two branches of the family soon quarrelled; and their after history is so distinct that it will be best to treat of them separately.

Gaur Singh became a disciple of Baba Muldas, an ascetic of great sanctity, who directed him to settle at Tiblia, or Karewa, where Gaur Singh accordingly built an *atari*, or thatched house, which gave its name to the family and to the village which rose around it. After the death of Gurbakhsh Singh Bhangi, Gaur Singh served under Sardar Gujar Singh and Lahna Singh. In 1737 he took possession of the villages around Atari to the value of Rs. 7,000 per annum, and two years afterwards received from Sardar Gujar Singh a jagir worth Rs. 18,600. He died in 1763; and his son Nahal Singh continued to hold the jagir under Sardar Sahib Singh Bhangi, son of Sardar Gujar Singh.



Sahib Singh was Chief of Gujrat, and here Nahal Singh went with his contingent and several of his cousins, sons of Kaur Singh. He soon became distinguished for courage and ability; and in the battle which took place between the Sikh Chiefs and the Afghans under Shahanchi Bashi, officer of Zaman Shab, in 1798, the exertions of Nahal Singh contributed very much to the victory. In 1800, soon after Ranjit Singh had obtained possession of Lahore, the Bhangi Chiefs and their allies met at Bhasin to consider what steps they should take against him. Hither came Nahal Singh with his superior, Sahib Singh; and Ranjit Singh, happening to see him, was struck with his bold appearance and his excellent horsemanship. He sent for him, and tried to induce him to change sides and take service with him. Sardar Nahal Singh however declined. He was not going to desert his old master, and told Sahib Singh of the offer, who was much pleased at his refusal and increased his jagirs and allowances.

This promotion excited much jealousy in the minds of his consins Tek Singh, Jodh Singh and Wazir Singh, who were all in the service of the Bhangi Chief; and it was through their representations that Sahib Singh, who was a weak and changeable man, confiscated Rs. 15,000 of his jagir. Nahal Singh threw up the Bhangi service in disgust and retired to Atari, where he took to cattle-lifting and robbery as a means of livelihood. One day he seized a number of camels belonging to Ranjit Singh, and had sold some of them before Ranjit Singh's messengers arrived to demand restitution. After some time he consented to give back those which he still had by him; and Ranjit Singh was so pleased at this concession that he again urged the Sardar to enter his service, to which Nahal Singh, after some hesitation, consented. He was placed in command of four hundred and sixteen horsemen, one gun, and seven camel swivels.

In 1803 he was granted the jagir of Sukhu, worth Rs. 54,500, and three years later the Ilaka of Kasur, worth a lakh. In 1807 he accompanied the Maharaja on his Kasur expedition, which ended in the defeat and expulsion of Kutb-udin Khan Kasuria; and Nahal Singh was put in possession of the whole Ilaka of Kasur, worth Rs. 1,07,000. On the south side of the Satlaj, the Dogras, a wild and turbulent tribe, who were at enmity with Dhana Singh, son of Gurbakhsh Singh, the ruler of Firozpur, invited Nahal Singh to attack it, and promised their assistance. He was ready enough to comply, and, crossing the river, dislodged the garrison of Dhana Singh Firozpurwala from the fort of Dalchi. At this time, another branch of the Dogra tribe settled at Baraki, who were also hostile to their Chief, Dhana Singh, sent to Lahore to beg Mora, a celebrated courtesan, then high in favour with the Maharaja, to take their part. She asked for a grant of Firozpur, and obtained it, and, sending troops to enforce her claim, seized Baraki. Nahal Singh now offered to assist Dhana Singh, who, in spite of his fears, was too weak to refuse. The two Chiefs then drove Mora's troops out of Baraki, and Nahal Singh attacked Firozpur, without success. The next year, 1808, Nahal Singh seized by stratagem the fort of Khai; and Dhana Singh, who saw his dangerous ally growing more and more powerful every day, was glad enough, in 1809, to place himself under British protection.

The territory which Nahal Singh thus seized south of the Satlaj was worth Rs. 18,000 per annum; and soon after he obtained the grant of villages round Atari to the value of Rs. 3,000. His jagirs amounted to Rs. 3,06,800, of which Rs. 1,50,000 was personal and Rs. 1,56,800 subject to service.

Excepting the Sindhanwalias, no Sikh Sardar stood so high in the Maharaja's favour as Nahal Singh. His services were numerous and important; indeed there was hardly any



campaign from 1801 to 1817 in which he did not take a distinguished part. He accompanied the first Kashmir expedition; he was at the affairs of Pind Dadan Khan, Kask, Dalor, Nila, Hola, Chakwal, Saidpur, Naraingarh and Multan. At this latter place, in 1810, he was severely burnt by the explosion of a mine. Atar Singh Dhari, who was standing beside him, was killed, and many officers were much hurt. Nahal Singh had to be sent to Lahore for treatment.

In 1817 Ranjit Singh fell sick at Waniki, and Nahal Singh is said to have given his life for the Maharaja by walking, with certain ceremonies, round his bed, and thus taking upon himself the disorder. The superstition is not an uncommon one in India; and accident, or Nahal Singh's imagination, seemed to give it some show of truth, for he retired to Atari, where he fell ill and died a few months afterwards. His son Sham Singh he had just before introduced into the Maharaja's service, and his first campaign was against Multan in 1818, where he commanded a battery to the south of the fort. With him, in command of batteries, were Sardars Dal Singh Naharna, Amir Singh Sindhanwalia and Desa Singh Majithia. The great Bhangi gun was brought from Lahore and was fired four times, doing considerable damage to the walls. The fort was at length taken; Sardar Sham Singh being one of the first in the breach, where he was wounded in the shoulder by a sword cut.

After this he served in many battles, and gained as great a name for courage as his father. He accompanied the successful expedition against Kashmir in 1819, and fought at Gandgarh Teri, Nari-Nari, Duthair, Jahangira, and in Yusufzai. In 1834 he went to Bannu with Diwan Tara Chand, and in the campaign had his horse shot under him.

The marriage of his daughter Naniki to Prince Nao Nahal Singh, to whom she had been betrothed in 1831, took place at Amritsar on the 7th March 1837. Sir Henry Fane,

Commander-in-Chief, was present, and the ceremony was conducted with the greatest splendour. The bride brought a dowry to the Prince of eleven elephants, one hundred horses, one hundred camels, with a very large amount both of money and jewels. The wedding is said to have cost the Atari Sardar fifteen lakhs of rupees. Two months afterwards the news came of Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa's defeat and death; and Sham Singh had to march to Peshawar with his troops, and he remained at that station for two years, till the death of Ranjit Singh. After this event, Sham Singh, although constantly engaged in military duties, did not meddle with politics. He was in charge of the troops which, in May 1841, escorted the family of Shah Shuja, to Peshawar; afterwards he was sent to Hazara to collect the revenue. He compelled that turbulent Chief Paimda Khan to deliver up his son as a hostage, and brought him to Lahore, where he was soon afterwards honourably dismissed. Throughout the reigns of Khurak Singh and Sher Singh, Sardar Sham Singh retained his jagirs intact. After the assassination of Jawahir Singh, he crossed the Satlaj to Kakrala, with the excuse of celebrating the marriage of his son Kahan Singh. When, however, the Sikh army invaded the Cis-Satlaj territory, he felt that he could not, in honour, remain out of the Panjab, and returned to Atari, where he lived in retirement. No one could doubt his bravery; but he saw, with disgust and sorrow, the Sikh army bent upon a war, of which he entirely disapproved, and marching to destruction under the guidance of false and incompetent men, and he resolved to stand himself aloof. But on the 25th of December, just after the news of Lal Singh's defeat at Ferozshahar had reached Lahore, the Maharani heard that Sham Singh was at Atari, and sent there ten horsemen, who were to be quartered on the Sardar till he joined the army. Sham Singh sent, again and again, to the Maharani, denouncing the war and the



policy that was destroying the country, but in vain ; and at last, when told he was a coward and afraid to die, he determined to join the camp, but swore not to survive the defeat, which he knew was certain. It is said that the night before Sobraon, Sardar Tej Singh counselled him to fly with him on the first attack of the British. Sham Singh refused with scorn. On which Tej Singh angrily said : " If you are so brave you had better take your oath about it, for I believe you will come with me after all." Sardar Sham Singh called for a *Granth* (the Sikh Scriptures), and solemnly swore that, should the Sikhs be defeated, he would never leave the trenches alive. On the morning of the battle, the 10th of February, he dressed himself in white, and, having mounted his white mare, addressed his men, begging them, as true sons of the Khalsa, to die rather than turn their backs on the enemy. During the first part of the battle he was everywhere present, urging the Sikhs to fight bravely ; and it was not till he saw that all was lost that he spurred forward against the 50th Regiment, waving his sword, and calling on his men to follow him. Some fifty of them obeyed the call, but were driven back into the river, and Sham Singh fell dead from his horse, pierced with seven balls. After the battle his servants swam over the river and begged permission to search for his body. The permission was granted ; and the body of the old Sardar, conspicuous by his white dress and long white beard, was discovered where the dead lay thickest. His servants placed the body on a raft and swam with it across the river, but it was not till the third day that it reached Atari ; and his widow, who knew his resolution not to survive defeat, had already burnt herself with the clothes which the Sardar had worn on his marriage day. This was the last *Sati* in the Panjab ; and the pillar which marks the spot where it took place is still standing without the walls of Atari.

Sardar Sham Singh was one of the best representatives of the Jat race, which, for manliness, honesty, strength and courage, is second to none in the world. His death was a great loss, for there was no one to take his place. There were, it is true, many of humble rank in the villages round Gujaranwala, Lahore and Amritsar, of equal courage, simplicity and devotion to the interests of the country; but not among the intriguing Sardars at the Court. Had there been more Chiefs like him the Satlaj Campaign would never have been undertaken, and the Sikh nation would have preserved the independence which it madly threw away. Thakar Singh, the eldest son of Sardar Sham Singh, died before his father. He was a man of no ability, but served in Bannu and Peshawar as commandant of artillery under his father. He left three sons, to whom the jagir of Shekoran, worth Rs. 7,500, was assigned, which they still hold, and which is maintained to their heirs in equal shares in perpetuity. These three Sardars, Jiwan Singh, Hari Singh and Ajit Singh, lived at Atari. On the close of the Satlaj Campaign, Raja Lal Singh confiscated Rs. 1,59,300 of the jagir. Rupees 12,000 were lost by the abolition of the customs duty, and the balance was continued to Sardar Kahan Singh, subject to the service of ninety-seven horsemen, twenty-five foot, and ten *zamburās*. At Multan, in 1848, the contingent of Kahan Singh was in the force of Raja Sher Singh. After his rebellion twenty-five sowars remained with the Raja, the rest came away with Shamsher Singh Sindhanwalia. Narain Singh, Kahan Singh's Diwan, also exerted himself to supply the British army, both at Ganda Singhwala and Kasur, with provisions and carriage. For this loyalty the personal jagir of Kahan Singh was maintained at annexation; Rs. 7,500 to descend in perpetuity.

Sardar Kahan Singh was of weak intellect, and had been a confirmed invalid for some years before his death, which



occurred in 1873. He had no male issue, and used to reside at Atari with his nephews. To one of them, Sardar Ajit Singh, was continued an allowance of Rs. 7,500 out of Kahan Singh's jagir of Rs. 35,500. The remainder was resumed. Sardar Ajit Singh was thus recognized as the representative and head of the family. He was one of the most able of the modern Sikhs of the Panjab, being well educated in Urdu, and having a slight knowledge of English. In 1865 he was appointed Sub-Registrar of Atari, and in the following year was invested with magisterial powers. He worked at Amritsar for three years, gaining valuable experience, and thereby fitting himself for the sole charge of the Atari Ilaka which was entrusted to him. In 1872 he passed with credit the departmental examination prescribed for Assistant Commissioners, and he was allowed to exercise full jurisdiction over two hundred villages around Atari. Three years later he was gazetted to the powers of a Collector on the Revenue side. In 1877 he received the rank of Assistant Commissioner, and in 1885 was admitted to the Order of the Indian Empire, in recognition of long and valuable services and as a representative of the leading gentlemen of the Province. Shortly afterwards he was appointed an Honorary Subordinate Judge, with power to dispose of Civil suits up to Rs. 5,000 in value.

Under the scheme of Local Self-Government, inaugurated in 1885, Sardar Ajit Singh was elected President of the Amritsar District Board, which post he held for the remainder of his life. He took an active interest in agricultural improvements, and was for many years an active member of the cattle fair committee at Amritsar. He was a Fellow of the Panjab University and a member of the council of the Aitchison College. In fact, for twenty-five years before his death, which occurred in 1888, the Sardar had held a prominent position as a loyal public servant and a valuable judicial and executive

officer. He died at the age of forty-nine years, leaving five sons, four daughters and six widows. The eldest son, Sardar Balwant Singh, is the present head of the Atari family.

Lala Gurmukh Rai, one of the leading Pleaders in Amritsar, has been appointed manager of the estate and guardian of the minor children under the District Court of Wards. The four eldest boys have been sent to the Aitchison College, Lahore.

The Sardar's property was valued at five lakhs of rupees, consisting of lands and movables. The family jagir of Rs. 7,500 has been continued to his eldest son, Sardar Balwant Singh, in addition to his father's personal jagir of Rs. 2,500. The income of the children from all sources is estimated at Rs. 25,000.

Sardar Balwant Singh married in 1886 a daughter of Sardar Bishan Singh of Kalsia. Sardar Harbans Singh is betrothed to a daughter of Sardar Rajindar Singh of Kathgarh, Hushiarpur.

Sardar Jiwan Singh, brother of the late Sardar, is a Darbari and a member of the Amritsar Local Board. He is a man of retiring habits and of no ambition. The third brother, Sardar Hari Singh, is also still living, and has children.

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Returning to the junior branch, as has been before stated, it was not till the year 1800, when Nabal Singh Atariwala left the service of Sardar Sahib Singh Bhangi, that a feud arose among the brothers. Up to that time they had lived together and served the same masters, the Bhangi Chiefs, at Lahore and Gujrat.

Of the sons of Kaur Singh, Tek Singh and Jodh Singh were the most distinguished, and under Sardar Sahib Singh enjoyed the greatest power and distinction. It was by their influence that Nabal Singh was compelled to leave the Bhangi service; and it was thus that the enmity, still strong at the



present day, arose between the Atariwalas. Wazir Singh and Charat Singh were not men of any note. After the death of Sardar Tek Singh, his son abandoned the service of Sahib Singh, and came over to the Maharaja, who was then carrying on operations against Kot Bari Khan. Without paying their respects to the Prince, they joined the battery of Mian Ghaus Khan and served throughout the siege; Hukam Singh receiving a wound in the forehead. After the capture of the fort, Ranjit Singh, pleased with their bold conduct, gave to the young men jagirs at Awan, Miani, and Bahu Chinah. Hukam Singh was present at the attack on Multan in 1810, and in 1812 accompanied the Maharaja to Jhilm, where he met Fateh Khan, the Kabul Wazir. The next year he died, and his sons being minors, his brother Jagat Singh succeeded to the jagirs; but when Jai Singh grew up, he received the Ilakas of Miani and Tehna.

Jai Singh, son of Sardar Wazir Singh, in the year 1821, rebelled against the Maharaja. The story is that he with his cousin Jagat Singh and Sardar Budh Singh Sindhanwalla, had conspired against the life of the Prince; and the two Atariwalas had entered the Saman Burj, intending to carry out their design, when the Maharaja suddenly appeared, and on enquiring of Jai Singh what was the matter, that Sardar was so confused and terrified that he allowed Ranjit Singh to guess at the plot against his life. At any rate, Jai Singh thought himself suspected, and retired to his fort of Kalar Kahar, which he hastily strengthened and garrisoned. A force was sent against him under Misar Ralia Ram and other Chiefs, and being defeated, Jai Singh fled across the Indus and took refuge with Dost Mahomed Khan, who was then rising into notice. Jai Singh had been sent a short time before this on a mission to Peshawar, where he had become very intimate with the Barakzai Chief, and many a debauch they had had together in the Bagh Nura Khaka

at Peshawar. Ranjit Singh was very jealous of any intimacy between his Chiefs and persons of another nation, and on Jai Singh's return to Lahore treated him with much reserve and suspicion. Now that the Sardar had fallen into trouble, he naturally fled to his Afghan friend, by whom he was well received.

He accompanied Dost Mahomed and Mahomed Azim Khan in 1823 to Peshawar, when the Barakzai Chiefs had determined to attack Ranjit Singh, who had taken Attock and was advancing towards Peshawar. One day, after a skirmish between the armies, the heads of thirty Sikhs were placed on the house of Jai Singh, who had excited the enmity of many of the Afghans; and he, taking the hint, left Peshawar and came in to Ranjit Singh at Akhora after the battle of Teri. He was not very cordially received and, though nominally forgiven, was never taken back into favour. He was one of the agents employed to bring about the meeting of the Maharaja with Yar Mahomed Khan and Dost Mahomed Khan at Peshawar after the retreat of Mahomed Azim Khan to Daka, when the Sikh Chief rewarded their treason to their brother by dividing between them the province of Peshawar, which he was himself unable to hold.

Jai Singh died soon after this. His cousin Jai Singh, son of Hukam Singh, was killed at Dilasa in Bannu in 1834, when Diwan Tara Chand received a severe repulse from the Dilasa Chief; and his brother Nar Singh succeeded to the Tehna and Awan estates, subject to the service of seventy horsemen. At the time of the Multan rebellion Nar Singh was in the enjoyment of an estate of Rs. 26,550, of which Rs. 17,500 was subject to service. On the 17th of September 1849, after Raja Sher Singh had joined the rebels, Nar Singh was placed under arrest in the Lahore fort. He does not appear to have been directly concerned in the rebellion, but his seventy



sowars, with the exception of eight or ten, went over to the enemy, and his jagirs were consequently resumed. At the close of the war an allowance of Rs. 3,000 per annum was granted to him.

Sardar Jodh Singh entered the service of Ranjit Singh in 1805, after a brave but vain attempt to hold the fort of Kalar against that Chief in the interests of his master, Sahib Singh Bhangi. He was received with great favour, and obtained a grant of a large tract of country valued at two lakhs of rupees, in Pathwar, consisting of the tapas of Barsali, Bishandar, Saidpur, &c., subject to the service of two hundred horsemen. Jodh Singh soon after this died, and his two sons, Partab Singh and Chatar Singh, succeeded to the jagirs. Partab Singh fought in the battle of Teri in 1823, when he was wounded in the hand. In the battle of Balakot, where Khalifa Ahmad was defeated and slain, Partab Singh was badly wounded, and, returning to his jagir, died some months later from the effects of his wound. His son Karam Singh died soon after, when still a child, and his share of the jagir fell to his first cousin Sher Singh. Sardar Chatar Singh was a good farmer; and his estates were much increased in value by his skill and care. He took no great share in politics during the reign of Ranjit Singh; but the family possessed great influence at Court, and in 1843 his daughter Tej Kaur was betrothed to the young Maharaja Dalip Singh. Sardar Chatar Singh was however entirely in the interests of Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu; and when a dispute, excited by Pandit Jala, arose between that Prince and his nephew Hira Singh, the Minister at Lahore, in December 1844, Chatar Singh took up arms in his own part of the country, which he held in the name of Raja Gulab Singh. Six months later, Gulab Singh, who was afraid of the influence and hostility of Prince Pashora Singh, persuaded Jawahir Singh, who had risen to power in Lahore,

to send Sardar Chatar Singh and Fateh Khan Tawana against him. This task was not at all liked by Chatar Singh; for to a Sikh there was something sacred about even a reputed son of the old Maharaja: but he was unable to refuse, and, with the Tawana Chief, proceeded against Attock, whither Pashora Singh had retired with a small force. After some days spent in negotiation, the Prince surrendered; the Sardars solemnly promising his safety and the full consideration of his claims at Lahore. But the next day, while on the march to the capital, he was taken off his guard, seized, placed in irons and carried back to Attock, where he is believed to have been murdered the same night, and his body thrown into the Indus, which, dark and swift, flows by the fort. The army of the Khalsa were much incensed against Chatar Singh for this cruel and treacherous murder; but he took care to avoid Lahore till the troops, content with the blood of Jawahir Singh, had forgotten his share in the crime. Sardar Sher Singh, the eldest son of Chatar Singh, had in 1844 been appointed Governor of Peshawar in the room of Sardar Tej Singh, who had been summoned to Lahore. He was an able and spirited young man, and ruled that difficult district to the satisfaction of the Lahore Government. He successfully put down an insurrection in Yusufzai in 1846; but his administration, though vigorous, was unusually corrupt. Raja Lal Singh, the Minister at Lahore, was his bitter enemy; and in August 1846 Chatar Singh was appointed to succeed his son at Peshawar, while Sher Singh returned to Lahore. This appointment was held by Chatar Singh till April 1847; but his rule was no purer than that of his son. The corrupt practices which both indulged in seem to have astonished even the Lahore officials, and the annual embezzlements from the State revenue were estimated at from one and a half to two lakhs of rupees. It was impossible for this to be allowed; but the family was too powerful to be lightly



offended, and too nearly connected with the Maharaja to be passed over; and accordingly Chatar Singh was made Governor of the country between the Jhilm and the Indus, where he possessed great authority; and Sher Singh received a seat in the Council. The latter was, however, by no means satisfied. He thought that on the fall of his enemy, Raja Lal Singh, he had a right to succeed him in his office, as he had succeeded him in the affections of the Maharani, and was angry at the failure of his hopes. Sher Singh would, perhaps, have been the best selection for Minister, but his claims were hardly as great as those of his father; and Chatar Singh was so completely in the hands of Maharaja Gulab Singh that he would have been a dangerous Minister at Lahore. But the Atariwalas at length appeared content. It was directed that the numerous claims in Peshawar against Sher Singh, amounting to upwards of half a lakh of rupees, should not be taken up; the Sardar paying Rs. 8,000 to some of the poorest claimants, who seemed to have the best grounds for complaint. This arrangement was considered very satisfactory by Sher Singh; and his brothers Gulab Singh and Atar Singh being provided for (the one in Hazara, the other in Lahore), he forgot his grievance about the *Wazarat*.

On the 7th August 1847, Sardar Chatar Singh received a Persian title of honour, at the recommendation of the Resident, at the same time that Sardar Tej Singh was created a Raja. On the 26th November, in the same year, Sher Singh received the title of Raja. This honour had been recommended for Chatar Singh; but at the last moment the Sardar requested that his son Sher Singh might be promoted instead, and the request was accordingly granted.

On the 18th April 1848 the outbreak occurred at Multan. Two British officers were treacherously attacked

and slain, and Diwan Mulraj stood forth as a rebel against the authority of the Lahore Government. The news of this outbreak reached Lahore on the 21st April; and the Resident immediately put in motion for Multan seven battalions of infantry, two regiments of regular cavalry, and twelve hundred irregular horse under Sardar Atar Singh Kalianwala. This force, which was accompanied by Raja Sher Singh, was recalled on the 26th to Lahore, as the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army was unwilling to send European troops to support it, during the hot season to a part of the country with so bad a name for unhealthiness as Multan. However, it was necessary that something should be done; and the Resident was compelled to send against Multan a Sikh force under the command of Raja Sher Singh and Sardar Shamsher Singh and Atar Singh Kalianwala. The force consisted of one regular regiment and half an irregular infantry regiment, three thousand cavalry, ten guns and two mortars. Raja Sher Singh was Commander-in-Chief; but his more special command was the infantry, while the two other Sardars led the cavalry.

On the 12th of June the force was at Chichawatni, and ready to proceed; but it was not thought expedient to hasten its march until some decided advantage had been gained over Mulraj by Edwardes and the Bahawalpur troops. Sher Singh and his colleagues had no thought of treason; but their troops sympathized with the rebels, and would have been only too glad to have joined them. On the 22nd June Sher Singh reached Talamba. He was ordered to stop here; but either his troops were no longer under command, or, fancying that he could trust to their fidelity, he wished to join in the successes of the British, for the battle of Kaneri had now been fought. He advanced to Gugran, nine miles from the city of Multan. Lieutenant Edwardes then directed Sher Singh to join him, which he did, pitching his camp



at Suraj Kund, three miles from Tibi, where Lieutenant Edwardes was encamped. He arrived at this place on the 6th of July.

Although the Sikh army was disposed to mutiny, the principal Sardars had sufficient influence to keep it tolerably steady, although many men deserted to Mulraj; and on the 20th of July, Sher Singh co-operated with the force under the English officers with energy and success. Thus matters remained until the arrival of General Whish before Multan with a European force on the 18th of August.

Sardar Chatar Singh was at this time Governor of Hazara. His troops were notoriously mutinous; but he gave no notice to the British authorities of the disaffection, which he shared, and which he himself encouraged. Affairs were brought to a crisis on the 6th August by the murder of Colonel Canora, an American commandant of Artillery in the Sikh service. He was ordered by Chatar Singh to bring the guns out of the fort of Haripur and to encamp on the open ground outside the city. This, Colonel Canora, who suspected the treasonable intentions of Chatar Singh, refused to do unless with the sanction of Captain Abbott, Boundary Commissioner and Assistant to the Resident in Hazara. He placed himself between the guns, which he had loaded with grape, and threatened to fire on the first man who should approach. Chatar Singh persisted; and as the Colonel would not surrender his charge, a body of Sikh soldiers crept up behind and shot him dead. On the news of this murder reaching Lahore, the Resident despatched Sardar Jhanda Singh Batalia with a confidential agent from Chatar Singh's son, Gulab Singh, to try and induce the Sardar to surrender himself and permit his conduct to be investigated at Lahore. But Chatar Singh had decided on his course. The mission of Jhanda Singh failed; and that of Raja Dina Nath, sent to Hazara with a like object, was equally unsuccessful. Chatar Singh's force did not, at the

time of his rebellion, exceed two thousand men; but it rapidly increased in numbers. He wrote for aid to his son at Multan, to Maharaja Gulab Singh and to Dost Mahomed Khan; raised levies in his own district of Pathwar, and used all means in his power to render his rebellion as formidable as possible.

On the 19th of August news of the outbreak in Hazara reached the camp of Raja Sher Singh before Multan. This Chief had, in the midst of mutiny and ill-feeling, striven to do his duty to the Government. By severe punishment, and by promises of rewards, he had kept his troops firm; and, even when his father's letters reached him in August, he did not waver in his fidelity. He did not believe that his father was deeply compromised in the rebellion; and hoped that by the mediation of Sardar Jhanda Singh and Raja Dina Nath everything would be satisfactorily arranged. On the 1st of September, when the force of Edwardes had to change ground, and was attacked by the enemy, the Raja voluntarily brought out his guns and aided the movement. Again, on the 3rd of September, he cannonaded and threw into great confusion the troops of Mulraj at the bridge, chiefly to destroy sympathy between his own men and the rebels. But early in September still more urgent letters came from Hazara stating that Sardar Chatar Singh had rebelled beyond all forgiveness, and calling on Sher Singh and all true Sikhs to join him. Messengers from Hazara, and chief among them Sardar Surat Singh Majithia, excited the soldiery, saying that now was the time to expel the *Farangis* from the country, and that any Sardar who opposed the movement was an enemy to the Khalsa. The Sikh force became so dangerous that, on the 13th of September, it was resolved to remove it from Multan and from temptation. The Atariwala, Kalianwala and Sindhanwalia divisions were to march in different directions; that of Sher Singh to the



ferry, nominally to protect the passage of the river. The morning of the 14th was appointed for the march; but the soldiers would not move. The whole camp rose in mutiny, excited by Surat Singh and others; the Sardars were abused and threatened till their lives were no longer safe. And at last Raja Sher Singh, in desperation, went over to the side of the rebels, and with his whole force marched to Multan, where he encamped in the Hazuri Bagh, as the Diwan distrusted him and refused him admittance into the fort.

The defection of the force of Sher Singh compelled General Whish to raise the siege of Multan; but he only retired to the suburbs of the city, where he waited for reinforcements and siege guns. Sher Singh now did all in his power to extend the rebellion and make it a national one, and distributed inflammatory letters over the whole country calling on the Sikh nation to rise. But Mulraj still thought him on the side of the British, or, if against them, desirous of obtaining the fort of Multan for the Khalsa; and he put no trust in his professions. He made Sher Singh with all his officers swear on the Sikh Scriptures that they had no evil designs; but, in spite of their oaths, not one of them was admitted within the city.

At length Sher Singh determined to join his father in Hazara. Mulraj was delighted at his resolution, and lent him money to hasten his march; and on the 9th of October the Raja, with his force of five thousand and three hundred men, left Multan *en route* for Hazara. On the 11th he crossed the Ravi with his whole camp and marched in the direction of Jhang. Here his troops behaved very ill, defiling the mosques and plundering the Mahomedan inhabitants. Sher Singh was here joined by the Bannu troops who had mutinied, taken the fort of Dalipgarh and slain the brave Fateh Khan Tawana; and continued his march along the Chanab in the direction of Wazirabad, which had been occupied by Lal Singh Moraria,

Chief Justice of the Sind-Sagar Doab, who had joined the rebels with two thousand Irregulars.

Sardar Chatar Singh had during the month of October been intriguing on all sides. To the Barakzai Sardars he promised the province of Peshawar in return for their assistance; and he had succeeded in inducing the whole of the Sikh troops at Peshawar to join him. In spite of the efforts of some of their officers who remained firm to their duty, they revolted on the 24th of August, and marched to join Chatar Singh. Captain Abbott held out gallantly in Hazara; and Lieutenant Herbert defended the fort of Attock till the 2nd of January, when, being without hope of succour and his troops deserting to the enemy, he was compelled to fly. After the fall of Attock, Chatar Singh marched to join his son Sher Singh.

The army under the Raja had, on the 2nd November, received a severe check at Ram Nagar from the British under Lord Gough. The affair was entirely fought by the cavalry and artillery, and can hardly be called a battle. On the 1st of December, Sir Joseph Thackwell, with the advanced part of the army, crossed the Chanab and advanced against the Raja's position. Some sharp fighting took place in front of the entrenchments, but no attack was made upon the position; and on the night of the 3rd December Sher Singh retreated by the Jhilm, Jalalpur and Pind Dadan Khan roads, and took up a position at Chilianwala, where, on the 13th of January, the British army advanced to attack him. The accounts of this battle, creditable to the British arms, have been often written. It has been called a victory; but neither the Sikh Generals nor the soldiery considered that they had been defeated. All fought well; but the hero of the day was Jawahir Singh Nalwa, son of Hari Singh, the great Sikh General, who led the cavalry charge which had so great an influence on the result of the battle.



Two or three days after the battle, Sardar Chatar Singh joined his son's camp, being received with a royal salute ; and bringing with him, as prisoners, Major George Lawrence and Lieutenants Herbert and Bowie. He had been successful in inducing Amir Dost Mahomed Khan to join him, having paid that Prince, as the price of his assistance, Rs. 30,000 in cash, Rs. 15,000 in shawls, and Rs. 15,000 he engaged to pay at Rawalpindi. For this consideration the Amir seized the province of Peshawar, co-operated in the siege of Attock, and sent a thousand cavalry under his son Akram Khan to join the army of Chatar Singh.

On the 21st of February the battle of Gujrat was fought, when the united Sikh and Afghan army was completely defeated with the loss of fifty-three guns. This was virtually the end of the war. The victory was followed up with vigour ; and at Rawalpindi, on the 14th March, Chatar Singh and Sher Singh, together with what remained of the Sikh army, some sixteen thousand men, laid down their arms.

As far as regards the Atariwala Sardars, these were the chief incidents of the war. A connected history of that war, so important to both England and the Panjab, has yet to be written ; but it will not be here out of place to say a few words on the causes that led to it.

At the close of the Satlaj Campaign, the Sikh army which had, since the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, been continually increasing in numbers, was in great measure disbanded. The Panjab villages were filled with a discontented soldiery,averse to peaceful occupations, and firmly believing that their late reverses were alone owing to the treachery and incapacity of their leaders. These men were anxious to try their fortune once more on the field of battle. At the capital, Raja Lal Singh, the Minister, whom it was necessary for the English Government to support, was highly unpopular. By the troops, he was hated for his share in the Satlaj disaster

and for his intrigues with the Maharani; by the Sardars, for his avarice, which cost many of them their jagirs. Even after his fall from power the new administration was hardly more popular. Raja Tej Singh was an incompetent man and an upstart. His rise had been owing more to his fortune than his abilities; and he was supposed to be entirely under the orders of the British Resident, Major H. Lawrence. There were many minor causes for discontent. Cow-killing was no longer allowed to be a crime; and the hated Mahomedans, who had always under Sikh rule been a persecuted race, were allowed to practise their religious rites publicly and ostentatiously. The people at large, too, believed that the English never intended to leave the Panjab: although the truth was that the British troops only remained at the earnest request of the principal Sardar, who dreaded a return of the anarchy which had preceded the Satlaj Campaign. Thus there was plenty of material for rebellion ready at hand; but the genius and political sagacity of Major Lawrence, and the confidence which the natives placed in him, might have preserved peace, had he not been compelled by bad health to leave the country at a most critical time.

The rebellion of 1848 began with the outbreak at Multan. This was entirely unpremeditated. There is no reason to believe that the attack on the British officers was made by the orders or with the connivance of Diwan Mulraj: but when he had been compromised by that attack, remembered that he had at his disposal immense wealth, devoted troops and the strongest fortress in Upper India, while the power which could punish and avenge was far off, and, to him, almost unknown. Of two evils, he considered rebellion the lesser. Had a British force marched against Multan on the first news of the outbreak reaching Lahore, had the punishment followed the offence swiftly and decisively, the Sikhs would not have rebelled. But the delay in the



punishment of one traitor, allowed them to believe that treason might remain altogether unpunished.

The defection of Raja Sher Singh before Multan was also unpremeditated. Till the night of the 13th of September he remained firmly loyal in the presence of temptation, such as few men have ever been exposed to. His influence over his troops was great; and it is possible that he might have kept them to their duty till the close of the siege had not the entreaties of his father induced him, much against his will, to join the rebel side. It was the rebellion of Sardar Chatar Singh which caused that of his son. There had been several insignificant outbreaks in outlying districts of the Panjab before that of Chatar Singh; but it was he who made the rebellion a national one and brought ruin upon the country.

What, then, were the reasons for Chatar Singh's conduct? Why was he thus disaffected while his son was actively loyal? It is difficult to believe that he was ambitious for himself. He was an old, broken-down man, and a confirmed invalid. His intellect, never brilliant, had become weakened by ill health and advancing age. He had long talked of abandoning worldly affairs and going on a pilgrimage to the Ganges; and he had declined a Rajaship in favour of his son. Nor could he have hoped to benefit his son by the expulsion of the English from the Panjab. Sher Singh had been placed at the head of the Sikh aristocracy by the British; and he might reasonably hope, in time, to obtain the Ministership at Lahore, and the guardianship of the young Prince to whom his sister was betrothed. This engagement, too, gave the family more importance in the eyes of the English than of the Sikhs; for, as the young Maharaja grew up, he would probably marry many other wives: and in the Panjab the influence of a wife is little felt outside the walls of the Zanana. Sher Singh was well content with his own prospects, and there

was no reason that Chatar Singh should be dissatisfied. It was at one time asserted that the suspicions of Captain Abbott drove Chatar Singh into treason; but that able officer only suspected where there was good reason for suspicion: and the correctness of his judgment has been fully proved.

Sardar Chatar Singh was a weak and a timid man, and was ever accustomed to depend upon the advice of men wiser and more determined than himself. There was one man upon whom, more than upon all others, he was accustomed to rely, and this was Maharaja Gulab Singh. There had not been an intrigue in the Panjab for many years past in which Gulab Singh had not been engaged, and from which he had not reaped advantage. The most accomplished of courtiers, the most subtle of diplomatists, the most unscrupulous of intriguers, Chatar Singh found him the most dangerous of friends. The friendship between these men was of the closest description. When the brother of Chatar Singh died, it was the influence of Gulab Singh that procured for the Sardar the grant of half his estates, to the prejudice of the son of the deceased. In the troubles under Raja Hira Singh, Chatar Singh had stood boldly by his friend, and for his sake became an accomplice in the murder of Prince Pashora Singh. The Sardar would never have determined on rebellion without consulting Gulab Singh; but, even had he so determined, Gulab Singh could without difficulty have dissuaded him from it.

Although the proofs of Gulab Singh's complicity in the rebellion might fail to satisfy a Court of Law, yet there is sufficient evidence for history to decide against him. In the first place, there is the universal belief, shared by the late Dost Mahomed Khan, that Gulab Singh was the instigator of the rebellion, and that against his will Chatar Singh would not have raised his hand. The evidence of Hira Nand, the agent sent by Chatar Singh to the Maharaja, recorded in October



1849, though in many parts exaggerated and contradictory, bears the general stamp of truth. If his evidence is received, there can be no doubt of the Maharaja's connection with the rebels. Hira Nand does not appear to have had any reason for accusing the Maharaja unjustly ; and his evidence is confirmed in many important particulars by other witnesses whose depositions were subsequently taken. No documentary evidence of any importance was discovered ; but the most wily of men was not likely to commit himself by writing what might be verbally explained, or expressed by a sign, or by the pressure of a finger. This much at least is certain, that families of rebels took shelter in the Maharaja's territories ; that rebel troops marched through them unmolested, and drew from thence their supplies ; and that, though his professions were large, the aid he rendered to the Lahore Government was trifling in the extreme.

But, with all this, it is impossible to believe that Maharaja Gulab Singh desired the defeat of the British. Gratitude for the grant of Kashmir, any other man than Gulab Singh might be expected to feel, but putting this aside, he was well aware that his existence as a Sovereign Prince depended upon the presence of British troops in the Panjab. He induced Chatar Singh to rebel, because he desired his destruction, and that of his son ; because he hoped for the subversion of the Lahore monarchy and the establishment of British supremacy in the Panjab. He perceived that if the country remained tranquil the British would, as agreed, leave it, and Raja Sher Singh obtain power ; and he also knew that in that case the Sikh arms would be first turned against him. He had been more surprised than any one else at finding himself Sovereign of Kashmir ; and he knew that the loss of this Province was looked upon by the whole Sikh nation with shame and rage : for it had been won with difficulty by the old Maharaja, and with the blood of many brave Sardars.

Nor were the Sikhs his only fear. Dost Mahomed Khan remembered that Kashmir had once belonged to Kabul, and was ready to attack it at the first opportunity. It was for this that he made an alliance with the Sikhs, whom he hated, and intrigued with the wild Mahomedan tribes of Hazara. Between the Sikhs and the Afghans, Gulab Singh was well aware that without British aid he must inevitably fall.

His policy being thus in favour of the English, the reasons that caused him to refrain from giving active assistance to them are plain. He could not, being himself the instigator of the rebellion, directly oppose it, without exciting great hatred against himself. Sikhs and Afghans would have united against him, and would have overrun Kashmir, while the British troops were barely able to hold their own in the plains. He waited until some decided success of the British army should enable him to declare himself, heart and soul, on its side. But after Chilianwala he began to doubt whether the English could really hold the country. The decisive overthrow of the Sikhs in 1845 had made him believe that with a larger force, and with far greater advantages of position, possessing, as they did, Lahore and Amritsar, the English would again obtain an easy victory. Even their temporary retirement would be fatal to him; and thus, when he saw the first portion of the campaign undecisive and unsatisfactory, he trembled for the result, and did not dare to break with the Sikhs. Had Gulab Singh joined the English openly and boldly, the campaign might have been more quickly decided. But this was not possible to him. His caution and hesitation in deciding on a plan were equal to his boldness and vigour in its execution. Every course presented to his keen intellect so many dangers, that he ever forbore to act until circumstances forced him into action. Though personally brave and fond of war, it was by fraud, not by force, that his policy was distinguished. Throughout his whole life he had



never joined a losing party, or even a winning one, until its success was undoubted and assured. The policy of Maharaja Gulab Singh was thus completely successful. The Sikhs were conquered; the Afghans driven ignominiously from the Panjab; and the astute contriver of their downfall ruled in peace under the strong protection of the only nation he had ever learnt to trust.

The evidence against Maharaja Gulab Singh, however convincing it may appear to those who have studied the history of the times, must still be admitted to be incomplete and indecisive. No evidence in his favour was ever heard, and if Diwan Jawala Sahai and other of his confidential agents were examined they might have explained many points which now appear most suspicious. Whatever hand Gulab Singh may have had in the rebellion of Chatar Singh, he was not the sole cause of the Second Sikh War. The old Khalsa army and the whole Sikh nation, which was, by constitution and creed, military, would never have settled down peaceably under British rule without another trial of strength; without a defeat which, like that of Gujrat, left them no option but that of submitting to the stronger. Even the troops of Sardar Chatar Singh were thoroughly disaffected; and without any aid or instigation from Gulab Singh, they would in all probability have sooner or later rebelled. The Maharaja was, at all events, not hostile to the British. If he desired and plotted for the downfall of the Sikh empire, it is impossible to blame him; for the Sikhs hated him fully as much as he did them, and would have seen his ruin with the utmost satisfaction.

Sardar Chatar Singh, Raja Sher Singh and Sardar Atar Singh, who had also joined the rebels, were placed under surveillance at Atari; but, being discovered carrying on a treasonable correspondence, they were in January 1850 sent as prisoners, first to Allahabad, and then to Calcutta.

Their estates were all confiscated. Chatar Singh, before the war, possessed jagirs of the value of Rs. 1,22,000 ; Rs. 57,000 being personal and Rs. 65,000 subject to service. Raja Sher Singh and his brother had personal jagirs worth Rs. 42,220. An allowance was granted them of Rs. 7,200 ; being Rs. 2,400 each to Chatar Singh, Sher Singh and Atar Singh. Gulab Singh did not join the rebels, being under surveillance at Lahore. He had been placed with his brother Sher Singh in charge of the young Maharaja and the household arrangements of the palace ; and he was evidently preparing to leave Lahore and join his father when he was arrested on the 17th September, and detained in safe custody till the close of the war. Nothing was, however, proved against him ; and his pension of Rs. 3,000 was equal in amount to what he had received in land previous to the war.

Bibi Tej Kaur was never married to Maharaja Dalip Singh. After the war the match was broken off, and she eventually married Janmeja Singh, son of Sardar Ishar Singh Gil Mariwala, by whom she had two sons. She died in 1863. In January 1854, Chatar Singh, Sher Singh and Atar Singh, whose conduct since annexation had been irreproachable, were released from confinement and allowed to choose their own place of residence, within certain limits. Their allowances were also raised : that of Chatar Singh to Rs. 8,000, and of Sher Singh to Rs. 6,000. During the Burmese, the Persian and the Sonthal Campaigns, Raja Sher Singh offered his services to Government, and he even volunteered for service in China during the late war. When the mutinies broke out, Sardar Gulab Singh received a command, and served throughout the war with distinguished gallantry. He received the title of Captain and, with his brothers Tej Singh and Atar Singh, the grant of a zamindari in Oudh, worth Rs. 28,800 per annum. Each of the brothers also held a life pension of Rs. 7,200, raised to that amount on the



death of Raja Sher Singh, which took place at Banares in 1858.

Raja Sher Singh, according to Hindu ideas, obliterated all the faults of his life by the sanctity of his death. When he felt his end approaching, he called the Brahmans to his bed-side, and asked of them how he could escape transmigration, the constant and life-long terror of Hindus. They told him that for seven days he must lie, fasting, by the Ganges, listening to the *Bhagawat*, the most sacred of all the eighteen *Puranas*. So, morning after morning, the dying Raja was carried to the river-side; and throughout the day he listened, as well as his fading senses would allow, to the words of the *Puran*. On the evening of the seventh day he gave Rs. 2,000 to the Brahmans, and died. Thus, an exile, far from his country, in the sacred city of Banares, and by the waters of the holy river, died before his time Raja Sher Singh.

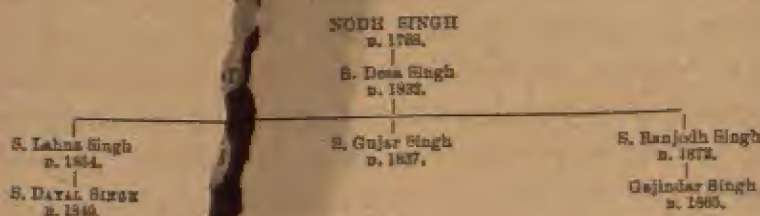
His father Sardar Chatar Singh had died early in the same year at Calcutta. Of Sardar Chatar Singh's four sons only Atar Singh now remains. He has elected to live at Rai Bareilly in the North-West Provinces, and is gradually severing his connection with the Panjab.

The case of Captain Gulab Singh was taken up warmly by his old friend and companion in arms, Lord Napier of Magdala, when Commander-in-Chief in India. Sir Henry Davies also interested himself in the Sardar's behalf, and in 1872 cancelled the order forbidding him to reside in the Panjab. Since then, the Sardar has been regarded as the representative of the junior branch of the Atari family. He took up his abode at Amritsar in 1878. He was gazetted as a Magistrate in 1884, and in the same year was attached to the Staff of the Viceroy as Aide-de-Camp on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency the Marquis of Ripon to Lahore. Two years later he was appointed a councillor to the Maharaja of Jamu

and Kashmir on a salary of Rs. 12,000 per annum. He died in 1887 leaving an only son, Nabal Singh, then aged four years. The Sardar at the time of his death was possessed of property at Rai Bareilly and Atari valued at seven lakhs of rupees, yielding an income of about Rs. 17,000 per annum. The estate is in charge of Lala Gurmukh Rai of Amritsar, under control of the District Court of Wards. The minor receives from the British Government an allowance of Rs. 3,600 per annum, and from the Maharaja of Jamu a similar grant. The late Sardar was a gentleman of some culture, and had made himself popular by his generosity, liberal spirit and kindly ways. He was admired and respected by the best men of the upper classes in the Panjab as well as by every British officer who had the privilege of knowing him. His sudden death, from heart disease, at a comparatively early age, was regarded by all as a heavy loss to the Sikh community.



## SARDAR DAYAL SINGH MAJITHIA.



The village of Majitha, situated ten miles to the north of the city of Amritsar, has given its name to one of the most distinguished families of the Panjab. The great Majithia family is divided into three branches, represented by Sardars Dayal Singh, Surat Singh, and Mahtab Singh. The relationship between these Sardars is distant, and the history of their families is quite distinct. Sardar Dayal Singh and Sardar Mahtab Singh are fifth cousins. But Surat Singh is a very remote kinsman; and it is necessary to go back fourteen generations to find a common ancestor for the three Majithia Sardars.

First in rank and influence is the family of Sardar Dayal Singh. His great-grandfather, Nodh Singh, was a respectable Zamindar of the Shergil Jat tribe. Nodh Singh married the sister of Sardar Amar Singh Bhaga, the powerful Chief of Dharamkot-Bhaga, and became Zaildar or feudal retainer of his brother-in-law, who was of the Kanhya Misal, and possessed a large territory in the Gurdaspur district. Nodh Singh acquired a jagir of Rs. 2,500, including two wells, at Majitha, and died in 1788 leaving one son, Desa Singh, then twenty years of age. The young man succeeded to his father's estate, and till the year 1809 remained in the service of the Bhaga Sardars. But when Maharaja Ranjit Singh in that year marched to Majitha and Dharamkot, determined to seize the estate of Sardar Budh Singh Bhaga, who had

failed to give the supplies demanded of him for the Kangra expedition, Desa Singh, who was very wise in his generation, saw that resistance was hopeless, and having, besides, no love for Budh Singh went over to the side of the Maharaja, who received him with open arms, and, when Budh Singh was vanquished, bestowed upon him the jagirs of Sukalgarh and Bhagowal, which had for many years been a portion of the Bhaga estate.

Sardar Desa Singh accompanied Ranjit Singh in his expedition to Kangra, where Raja Sansar Chand and Katoch had begged his assistance to expel the Gurkhas under Amar Singh Thapa. Sansar Chand must have found it difficult to distinguish his friends from his enemies; for Ranjit Singh, driving out the Gurkhas, seized his fort, the key to the Kangra valley, and appointed Desa Singh its commandant. He was also made Nazim, or Governor, of the Hill States, Kangra, Chamba, Nurpur, Kotla, Shahpur, Jasrota, Basauli, Mankot, Jaswan, Siba, Goler, Kahlur, Mandi, Suket, Kulu, and Datarpur. In 1811 Sardar Desa Singh marched against the fort of Kotla, half way between Kangra and Nurpur, held by Dhian Singh, who had been Wazir of the Raja Goler, and who, trusting to the strength of his position, had given himself the airs of an independent Chief. The Maharaja promised Desa Singh half the Ilaka of Tiloknath, in which the fort was situated, in jagir if he succeeded in reducing it in a week; and the energetic Sardar did the work in the appointed time and obtained the jagir, worth Rs. 7,000. Two years later he was sent to annex the territory of the Raja of Haripur, who had been shamelessly arrested at Lahore.

Sardar Desa Singh was appointed Governor of the city of Amritsar, and in 1818 he served in the Multan Campaign with distinction in the force of Prince Kharak Singh. After this he returned to his Hill Governorship, and collected, as



usual, the revenue and the tribute due from the different States. Bilaspur alone was refractory; and Desa Singh marched against the Raja and seized his territory, both on the Sikh side of the river and that under British protection. This was in violation of the Treaty of the 25th August 1809; and the British troops were without delay put in movement to resist it. Ranjit Singh repudiated the action of his Lieutenant, and obliged Desa Singh to visit Captain Ross, the officer in charge of the Hill Frontier, to offer apologies, which were accepted readily; and, indeed, the civilities which passed between them roused the Maharaja's jealousy, and for some time he forbade Desa Singh to have any intercourse with any British officer. Mr. Moorcroft, passing through Amritsar in 1820, found that Desa Singh was unable to visit him on account of this prohibition. About this time the Sardar received a grant of Ilaka Bhaguwala in the Firozpur district, where he built a fort and seized by violence some villages belonging to the Ahluwalia Sardar in the Malanwala Ilaka. His jagirs were very extensive. During the reign of Ranjit Singh he, with his son Lahna Singh, received grants to the value of Rs. 1,24,250 per annum. These included Majitha, Tiloknath, Bhaguwala, a large portion of the old Bhaga estate of which he had been made Governor, Bhaawal, Hariki, Khndpur, Naoshera-Nangli, and Zamanabad, in the Kangra district.

Sardar Desa Singh died in 1832, and was succeeded in all his estates and honours by his eldest son Sardar Lahna Singh. His life had been uniformly prosperous; and the favour of his Sovereign, who had given him the title of *Kasir-ul-iktidar* (Chief of Exalted Dignity), never lessened. He was a brave and successful soldier, and a wise and liberal administrator; and his name is still remembered with affection by the people, whom he never oppressed.

Sardar Lahna Singh served with credit in the Multan Campaign of 1818, and soon became known for ability and

learning. When Ranjit Singh determined to seize the possessions of his mother-in-law, Mai Sada Kaur, Lahna Singh was selected to superintend the unpleasant work. The intriguing lady was seized and carried prisoner to Amritsar. All her estates were confiscated; and the great Kanhya Misal, of which she was head, made no attempt to save her. Ranjit Singh had not expected so easy a success, and said, in full Darbar, "All these Kanhyas are cowards and traitors." Among those who heard this speech was Jodh Singh Harchandar. He set off at once, threw himself with a few men into the Nanga fort, and defended it for some time bravely. The fort of Atalgarh also held out for three weeks, defended by one of Mai Sada Kaur's slave girls, who seemed to have acquired some of the spirit of her mistress.

After the death of Desh Singh, his son received charge of the Hill territory between the Ravi and the Satlaj, and held the appointment till the beginning of 1844. Lahna Singh did not reside in the hills, but at Amritsar or Majitha. At the former place he was in charge of the Darbar Sahib, the Sikh temple, as his father had been, a post of importance requiring great tact and judgment. Once a year he made a tour in the hills to inquire into the state of the country, to redress grievances, and to examine the accounts. He was a mild and benevolent man, and, like Desa Singh, bears the character of being one of the best Governors that the Sikh rule (famous for rapacity and corruption) ever produced. Lahna Singh possessed the greatest influence with Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and his counsel was always listened to with respect. His title was *Hasam-udaula* (the Sword of the State).

In 1834 Gujar Singh Majithia, brother of Lahna Singh, was selected to take charge of a mission to Calcutta to convey presents for the King of England, and to endeavour, if possible, to ascertain the intentions of the British Government



with regard to Shikarpur. The selection was not a happy one. Sardar Gujar Singh was a young man of ordinary ability, considerable conceit, and debauched habits. He took with him one hundred men, splendidly appointed, the finest that could be picked out of the Sikh army. With him, too, to keep him in order, were sent Rai Govind Jas, brother to Rai Kishan Chand, Gulab Singh, Commandant, called afterwards Calcuttia, and Dewa Singh, Commandant; and plenty of difficulty they had with their charge, who fell desperately in love with a European woman in Calcutta, and wanted to marry her, to the horror of Govind Jas and the annoyance of Ranjit Singh, who excluded him for some time after his return from Darbar. He brought back no information about Shikarpur, but plenty of English airs and graces, which created great amusement at the Lahore Court. Among other English tastes acquired by Gujar Singh was a love for champagne, from the effects of which, one evening, about two years after his return from Calcutta, he walked over the parapet of the roof of his house at Amritsar and, falling some forty feet, was killed on the spot.

In 1840, after the death of Ranjit Singh, Prince Nao Nahal Singh sent a force under Sardar Ajit Singh Sindhanwalia and General Ventura against Mandi. Raja Balbir Sen was taken prisoner and brought to Amritsar, imprisoned in Govindgarh, and his territory annexed. But Lahna Singh interested himself very warmly for his old friend, and, when Maharaja Sher Singh ascended the throne, procured his release and the restoration of his country. He signed, with the Sindhanwalias and other Chiefs, the agreement which was to exclude Sher Singh from the throne, for at least a time; and when that Prince marched to Lahore and besieged the fort, Lahna Singh was in great alarm and hid himself in Jamadar Khushal Singh's house till the end of the siege. When Raja Hira Singh rose to power, Sardar Lahna

Singh, who was hated by Pandit Jala, the Minister's confidant, fearing to lose his estates or his life, and filled with sudden religious aspirations, left the Panjab on a pilgrimage. He first visited Hardwar, and then proceeded to Banares, Allahabad, Jaganath and Calcutta, where he was residing when the Satlaj Campaign commenced, in November 1845. Before leaving the Panjab he made over the management of his estates to his half-brother Ranjodh Singh, the youngest son of Sardar Desa Singh by a hill woman.

Sardar Ranjodh Singh was at this time a General in the Sikh army. He had lately returned from the expedition sent by the Wazir, Jawahir Singh, against Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu, and was quite ready for a war with the English, for whom he had no great love. He moved his brigade, consisting of ten thousand infantry, sixty guns, and some irregular cavalry, to Philaor; and on the 17th January 1846 he crossed the Satlaj, intending to move on Ludhiana and capture, if possible, the siege train which was on its way to the headquarters of the army. At Badowal, on the 21st January, he intercepted the force of Sir Harry Smith, who was marching to Ludhiana, and, more from the exhaustion of the British troops, than from any display of generalship on his part, captured almost all the baggage of the army. This affair so much encouraged the troops of Ranjodh Singh, who had been joined by Sardar Ajit Singh of Ladwa, that at Aliwal, on the 28th January, they left a strong position, contrary to the orders of the General, to attack the British force. The defeat which they experienced is a matter of history; and there is no occasion to dwell upon it here. Ranjodh Singh, who was, if anything, superior to the other leaders of the Sikh army; if leaders they can be called, who were ever the last to enter the fight and the first to run away. His generalship was as contemptible as that of Raja Lal Singh, and his cowardice as conspicuous as that of Raja Tej Singh; but he



was no traitor. He had no confidential agents in the British camp as Raja Lal Singh had; nor did he, like the Raja, pray for and labour for the triumph of the English.

Soon after the close of the campaign, Sardar Lahna Singh returned from Calcutta at the invitation of the Council and the Resident. He declined to be formally admitted into the Council, but was ready to give, privately, any advice he could, and accepted the charge of Amritsar, Govindgarh and the Manjha in its widest acceptation, being the whole tract of country between the Ravi and the Bias from the Hills to Kasur. A great dispute now arose between Lahna Singh and Ranjodh Singh. The latter had preserved the estates entrusted to him for two years and a half in very difficult times, and claimed on Lahna Singh's return a half share of them. Lahna Singh only wished to allow him a pittance, amounting to about a twentieth of the whole. Both proposals were unjust; and it required all the influence of Sir H. Lawrence to settle the dispute, and to induce Lahna Singh to allow his half brother a jagir of Rs. 12,000 per annum.

In August 1844 Lahna Singh consented to join the Council. His administration of the Manjha had been successful. Although he had an objection to capital punishment, he contrived to free the country of robbers and dacoits, who had overrun it after the close of the war; and there was no Sardar whose rule was so generally popular. But his practised eye saw the signs of coming disturbances, and he determined to leave the Panjab. In January 1848 he left for Banares. His personal jagirs and religious grants, amounting to Rs. 42,000, and service jagir of Rs. 15,000 were continued to him. All the other jagirs were resumed; but the Darbar promised to restore them on his return to the country.

At the close of the Satlaj Campaign, Sardar Ranjodh Singh, who had been most averse to peace, was sent with an English officer to induce the Governor of the Kangra fort to submit.

His exertions to effect this object were not great ; and there is every reason to believe that, through his instigation, the garrison held out longer than it would otherwise have done. He was then appointed Judge of Lahore ; but in this post he did not give any satisfaction. When the dispute with his brother was finally adjusted, some guns, which should have been returned to Lahna Singh, were concealed by Ranjodh Singh in a house at Amritsar. He denied their concealment ; but a forcible search being made, a large mortar, two 24-pound howitzers and a 6-pounder were found. His conduct on this occasion induced the Darbar, on the recommendation of the Resident, to remove him from the Judgeship, in which he was succeeded by Sardar Kahan Singh Man. The next year, 1848, soon after the outbreak at Multan, he was detected in a treasonable correspondence with Mulraj, and was placed in confinement, only being released at the close of the war.

When Ranjodh Singh was arrested and carried prisoner to the fort, 10,000 *budhis*\* were left in his Lahore house, locked up in a chest. When the Sardar was released, the money was gone. The theft was attributed to common thieves ; but it is believed that some Sardars, wealthy and honoured, could have told what became of the money. The Darbar confiscated his jagir ; but after annexation he was allowed by his brother an annuity of Rs. 2,500. On the death of Lahna Singh the allowance ceased ; and the Government granted him a cash pension of Rs. 3,000 per annum, which he held till his death in 1872. His only son Gajindar Singh was recently released from the Court of Wards.

Sardar Lahna Singh returned to the Panjab in 1851 ; but after two years went back to Banares, where he died in 1854. He left one son, Sardar Dayal Singh, now at the head of the family. He is well educated in English, Persian and Hindi. He holds a perpetual jagir of Rs. 6,000

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\* A gold coin, then worth five rupees.

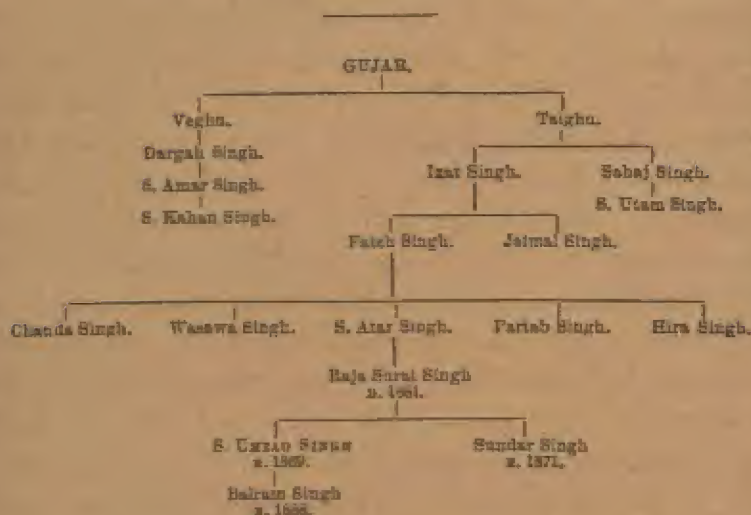


and Rs. 5,200 from *Dharmarth*, Rs. 1,200 of which is for the Readers of the Granth at Tiloknath in the Kangra district. He also owns property purchased by his father some years ago in the Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Firozpur districts ; and he has lands in the Shahabad district of Bengal. The Sardar visited England some years ago. He now usually resides at Lahore. He has not hitherto taken an active part in public affairs.

Sardar Lahna Singh was a man of considerable ability. He was a skilful mechanist and an original inventor. He much improved the Sikh ordnance; and some very beautiful guns of his manufacture were taken at Aliwal and elsewhere. Among other things he invented a clock which showed the hour, the day of the month and the changes of the moon. He was fond of astronomy and mathematics, and was master of several languages. As an administrator, Lahna Singh was very popular. The poor were never oppressed by him ; his assessments were moderate ; and his decisions essentially just. As a statesman, he may be said to have been almost the only honest man in Lahore. Fraud and corruption were supreme, but the hands of Lahna Singh were always clean : surrounded by the most greedy and unscrupulous of schemers, he preserved his honesty unsullied.

Had a man of the reputation and administrative talent of Lahna Singh taken the lead in 1845 in the Panjab, the great troubles which came upon the country might have been averted. But he was no true patriot. He did not understand that the religion of a statesman, and indeed of every brave man, is to stand by his country in times of danger, sharing her griefs and, if need be, falling with her fall.

## SARDAR UMRAO SINGH MAJITHIA.



Like the rest of the Majithia clan, the brothers Izat Singh and Sahaj Singh followed the fortunes of the Sukarchakia Sardars. Izat Singh was able to acquire a strip of the Dhani country on his own account, and held it, with much difficulty and by dint of constant fighting, till his death in 1772. His sons Fateh Singh and Jaimal Singh were mere boys at the time of his death, so his brother Sahaj Singh took possession of the estate. In 1781 Sahaj Singh died, and Utam Singh, his eldest son, succeeded to the whole property without any opposition from Fateh Singh and Jaimal Singh, who might have been reasonably expected to have claimed their father's share. The cousins lived together in harmony; and when Ranjit Singh rose to power submitted to him and, having paid tribute, were confirmed in the estate. However, soon after this, in 1803-4, the Maharaja marched in the Rawalpindi direction and demanded the surrender of Nila and Rohtas, a large and strong fort about six miles from the river Jhilm, which had been captured from the Afghans by Sardar Charat



Singh. Sardar Utam Singh refused, but before hostilities commenced thought better of it, and gave up both to the Maharaja, who placed the fort in the charge of Muhar Singh Lamba and Raja Nur Khan; and the Maharaja then took possession of the whole Dhani country, then famous for its breed of horses. Atar Singh, the adopted son of Utam Singh, was in 1809 made Governor of the district about Rawalpindi. Utam Singh died in 1827, and all his jagirs were resumed. But the family were not left destitute. Atar Singh received an estate of Rs. 28,000 at Sayad Kasra and Ganja Mahal; and Kahan Singh his cousin, whose father, Sardar Amar Singh, had fallen in Hazara, one of the same value at Kot Bhai and Sayadpur. Amar Singh, the father of Kahan Singh, was a very distinguished soldier. He was known as Amar Singh, Kalan (great); while the father of Sardar Mahtab Singh Majithia was known as Amar Singh, Khurd (small).

When Diwan Ram Dayal was killed in Hazara, Amar Singh Kalan was appointed Governor of that country. At first he held it in tolerable quiet; but finally quarrelled with Mahomed Khan Tarin, a Chief of note, and at Taragarh gave a severe defeat to the tribes, Dhund, Tarin, Tanol and Karal, who had taken up arms in his favour. The battle was over, the enemy had taken to flight, and the Sikh force had retired from the field, when Amar Singh, thirsty and fatigued, went down to the little stream Samandar to bathe and drink. He had only a few horsemen with him; and a number of the enemy returning, and seeing the weakness of the little party, came down and killed Amar Singh and his followers after a desperate defence. For a month the body of the Sardar was left on the ground where he fell; but at last the Sikhs recovered it, and it was burnt with due honours.

To this day in Yusufzai the name of Amar Singh is well remembered; and the people still show a large tree, pierced

through and through with an arrow, which they say was shot from the bow of Amar Singh. Atar Singh was some time after allowed to have the management of the old family Ilaka of Dhani, though he did not hold it in jagir. He was killed in Hazara in 1843, and his only son Surat Singh succeeded him. This young man was stationed at Peshawar with his sowars, and during the First Panjab War in 1845-46 had to keep order about Naushera, which was in a very unsettled state. When Raja Lal Singh was Minister, he tried to induce Surat Singh to exchange his jagir in Jhilmam for one in the Bari Doab; and when the Sardar would not consent, he sent his brother Amar Chand to seize by force the jagir and the fort of Sayad Kaisra. Surat Singh resisted this violence; but he would have been overpowered had not Lal Singh's Kashmir intrigues worked his downfall at the close of 1846. As it was, a large portion of his jagirs were resumed, but were restored early in 1847. When the rebellion of 1848 broke out, Sardar Kahan Singh was at Peshawar, where he was in command of the Orderly Regiment. He remained faithful to the last, more from timidity than from loyalty, and when the Peshawar troops mutinied did his best to induce them to return to their duty. But when Sardar Chatar Singh Atariwala arrived at Peshawar, Kahan Singh joined him, though unwillingly, and served with the rebel army till the end of the campaign.

Sardar Surat Singh in no way shared his cousin's misgivings or fears. He joined the rebellion from the first, and, indeed, was one of its excitors. It seems that so early as July 1847 he had talked treason with Sardar Chatar Singh; and when he was summoned from Peshawar in July 1848 to join Raja Sher Singh with five hundred horse, he had another meeting on the road with Chatar Singh, and brought to Raja Sher Singh his father's injunctions to rebel. The defection of Raja Sher Singh appears to have been in a great measure owing to Surat Singh's evil influence. The evidence of



Shekh Imamudin Khan is to the effect, that at the meeting of Raja Sher Singh's officers at Multan on the night of the 14th September, Raja Sher Singh tried to persuade his men to remain faithful; but that Surat Singh harangued the soldiery, and by his arguments so inflamed their passions, that the Raja could only secure his safety by adopting the popular side and going over to Mulraj. When Sher Singh left Multan, Surat Singh was placed in command of one division of his army; two thousand men and two guns. On the march to Jalalpur, in the Gujranwala district, this detachment committed many excesses. At Chaniot especially, where the population is Mahomedan, and at Jhang, the mosques were defiled and many of the inhabitants shamefully treated. Surat Singh also plundered two lakhs of Government money on its way to Multan. After the battle of Gujrat retribution came. The jagirs of Surat Singh, worth Rs. 22,500, were confiscated, and he was removed to Banares, where he remained under surveillance on a pension of Rs. 720 per annum.

Kaban Singh's conduct was regarded with some pity. He had tried to remain faithful, but had not at last strength to resist the persuasions and example of others; but his criminality did not approach that of Surat Singh. His jagirs were confiscated to the value of Rs. 40,000, but he was allowed a pension of Rs. 3,600 per annum, which he enjoyed till his death in 1853. When Kaban Singh lost his jagirs he was the owner of two elephants, which had been used on all occasions of state. But the Sardar considered that both he and his elephants could not live in idleness upon his pension, and determined to make them of use. He accordingly had a framework constructed, to the under side of which some twenty ploughs were fastened in a long line. To this he yoked his elephants; and the sagacious animals ploughed the Majitha fields as if they had been born to the work; and people used to come from all quarters to see the wonderful sight. He also had a very large

well and Persian wheel constructed, and made the elephants irrigate the fields which they had ploughed.

The Mutiny of 1857 found Sardar Surat Singh still in exile at Banares. Adversity had taught him wisdom; and he was now as warm in his loyalty as he had before been active in rebellion. On the 4th June 1857 the 37th N. I. were broken up at Banares, and some suspicious movement being observed in a corps of Ludhiana Sikhs present on the ground, the guns, which were being served against the 37th, were turned against the Sikhs. The whole affair seems to have been a miserable mistake; and there is no reason to believe that the corps was anything but loyal. But it was not prepared for so severe a test of its loyalty, and accordingly charged the guns; but was repulsed with great loss and driven from the field. It happened that the Banares Treasury, which contained several lakhs of rupees and the jewels of the Maharani Jindan, valued at twenty lakhs, was guarded by a detachment of the Sikh regiment which had been cut up. Hard by the Treasury was the Collector's Court, a strong masonry building, on the roof of which some twelve Civilians had taken their stand to defend the treasure and their own lives in the event of an outbreak. When the Sikh guard heard of the fate of their comrades, their agitation and rage was extreme, and they would certainly have mutinied, seized the treasure, and attacked the Europeans, had not Sardar Surat Singh gone in among them and, by his personal influence and expostulations, kept them to a sense of their duty. Through that long June night, the Sardar, ably seconded by Pandit Gokal Chand, argued and entreated till, towards morning, the little party were escorted to the mint by a European force. At Jaunpur, another detachment of the Ludhiana Regiment was stationed. When these men heard of the destruction of their regiment, they rose in fury, shot their Commanding officer, murdered the Joint Magistrate, and



marched to Lucknow with the treasure. But for the gallantry and loyalty of Surat Singh, the same tragedy might have taken place at Banares. Some time later, the Sardar commanded the force sent to bring in the Sultanpur fugitives, and on several other occasions showed conspicuous gallantry in the field. On the 6th July, when engaged with a body of Rajputs who had attacked Banares, he was severely wounded by a sabre-cut on the thigh, which confined him to his bed for some months, and from the effects of which he became lame.

For his services during 1857, the Supreme Government granted Sardar Surat Singh a pension of Rs. 4,800 per annum, and a valuable jagir in perpetuity at Dumri in the Gorakhpur district, North-West Provinces. He also received permission to return to the Panjab.

From his return to Majithia in 1861 until his death, Raja Surat Singh devoted much of his time to the improvement of his property. He was an active man, of business habits. In 1875 he was appointed an Honorary Magistrate, and was invested with civil judicial powers, which he exercised at Majithia, building a commodious Court-house at his own expense. In 1877, on the occasion of the Delhi Imperial Assemblage, the title of Raja was conferred upon him. In the same year he received the Companionship of the Star of India. The Raja died in 1881 at Majithia, leaving two sons, Umrao Singh and Sundar Singh. Their mother, Rani Karam Kaur, died in 1875. The management of the estate and the guardianship of the sons devolved upon Sardar Captain Gulab Singh Atariwala, under the supervision of the Court of Wards. On the death of Captain Gulab Singh in 1887, Lala Gurmukh Rai, a Pleader of Amritsar, was appointed to the charge. In November 1882 the minors were entered on the rolls of the Government School, Amritsar. Sardar Umrao Singh has passed Entrance Tests of the Panjab and Calcutta Universities. He and his brother are studying in the Aitchison College at

Lahore. Sardar Sundar Singh passed the Middle School Examination in 1888. In 1883 Sardar Umrao Singh was married to the daughter of Captain Golab Singh. Sardar Sundar Singh was married in 1887 to the daughter of Sardar Bishan Singh of Kandaula in the Ludhiana district, maternal uncle of the Raja of Faridkot. She died in the same year. In lieu of his pension of Rs. 4,800, Raja Surat Singh was in 1874 awarded a jagir of the same amount in perpetuity, to descend integrally; the successors being chosen by Government. The annual income of the estate is about Rs. 50,000, of which Rs. 40,000 is from the Oudh property in the Gorakhpur district. Sardar Sundar Singh has quite recently married a daughter of Sardar Sir Atar Singh, K.C.I.E., Chief of Badaur in the Ludhiana district. The expenses of the ceremony were entirely regulated by the new rules formulated by the bride's father. This is the first marriage in the upper classes at which these regulations were respected. They have for their object the repression of one unnecessary source of debt in most Indian families, namely, lavish hospitality and extravagant accessories on occasions of betrothal and marriage.

A sister of Sardar Umrao Singh married in 1889 a son of the late Sardar Ajit Singh Alawalpuria, of Jalandhar.



## BHAJ GURBAKHSI SINGH.



The ancestors of Bhai Pardaman Singh resided at Chaniot in the Jhang district, and several of them at different times entered the service of the Mahomedan Chiefs of Multan; but the early history of the family is in no way important. Ram Singh became a Sikh and a follower of Guru Govind Singh. He was a zealous preacher of the Sikh faith, in his own part of the country, so much so that the Multan authorities grew alarmed and ordered his arrest; but he received timely information, and was able to escape to Amritsar. The Multan Governor took Surat Singh, the only son of Ram Singh, into his service, and the father, thinking all danger to be past, returned home, where he died shortly afterwards. Surat Singh then left Multan and wandered about the country as his father had done, preaching the Sikh faith; and his conduct excited the same suspicions. He contrived to get away to Amritsar with most of his property, and was soon patronized by the Chiefs, who were at that time becoming powerful, and was placed in charge of the building of the Darbar Sahib, the Sikh temple at Amritsar. In the Jalandhar

Doab he acquired a small jagir, where he built a fort, and then returned to Amritsar, where he died.

In 1806 Maharaja Ranjit Singh conquered the plain portion of the Jalandhar Doab; but he allowed Sant Singh to retain his jagir, and he appointed him to succeed his father in the superintendence of repairs and decorations of the Darbar Sahib. Bhai Sant Singh was no contemptible soldier, and on several occasions he served with credit. During the Campaign of 1821 the Maharaja was engaged in the siege of a small fort on the way to Mankera. Suddenly the sky grew dark, and a violent storm came on. Ranjit Singh was caught by a furious blast of wind and thrown into the ditch from which the earth for the batteries had been excavated. Sant Singh saw his fall and, knowing that it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, sprang into the ditch and, lifting the Maharaja in his arms, carried him in triumph to his tent. For this service he received jagirs in the Amritsar and Sialkot districts to the value of Rs. 6,800. Whether this story be false or true, it is certain that Sant Singh's jagirs were numerous, and that he stood high in the favour of the Maharaja.

About this time Bhai Gurdas Singh, who had been a reader of the *Granth* in the Darbar Sahib, died; and Sant Singh, in grief for his loss, determined to give up worldly affairs and devote himself to reading and expounding the scriptures. In the room of his father came to Court Gurmukh Singh, who soon became as great a favourite as Sant Singh had been. Bhai Sant Singh was called *Gaini* (one who meditates on divine things), and was held in much respect till his death. He wrote a commentary on the *Ramayana*, and a treatise on the rite of the *pahal*, or Sikh baptism.

When Pardaman Singh was thirteen, the Maharaja took him into his service, and gave him the jagir of Kaliwal, worth Rs. 1,100. Bhai Gurmukh Singh had not enjoyed much



influence during the life-time of Ranjit Singh, for his enemy, Bhai Ram Singh, was high in the favour of the Maharaja. With Nao Nahal Singh he had still less influence; and when the prince was killed he took up the cause of Prince Sher Singh warmly, for the principal reason that Ram Singh was leader of the rival party of Mai Chand Kaur.

When Sher Singh became Maharaja he did not forget the services of Gurmukh Singh, whom he treated with great consideration, and to whom he gave large jagirs. But the real power was kept by Raja Dhian Singh, the Minister, in his own hands. The Maharaja, though he hated Dhian Singh, and knew his unpopularity with the nation, could not get rid of him. He, however, played off Gurmukh Singh against him; and the Bhai, from his religious character and long friendship with the Maharaja, could not be excluded from the presence. But otherwise, the contest between the statesman and the priest was most unequal. Gurmukh Singh was supported by no powerful party; he was without character or ability; while Raja Dhian Singh was the ablest man of his day, subtle, plausible, cautious, though bold even to audacity in attacking and destroying his declared enemies.

Throughout the reign of Sher Singh, the Bhai intrigued against Raja Dhian Singh and joined in the Sindhanwalla conspiracy against his life. When Raja Hira Singh, son of the murdered Minister, rose to power, he, at the instigation of Bhai Ram Singh and Misar Lal Singh, arrested Gurmukh Singh with his friend Misar Beli Ram, the Toshakhania, and made them over for custody to Shekh Imamudin Khan, by whom they were put to death. Bhai Ram Singh was a far abler man than his rival Gurmukh Singh, but of no higher character. Both were unscrupulous and scheming men, and both made religion a cloak for their ambition and intrigue.

After the death of Gurmukh Singh, all the estates of the family were confiscated, and their houses and personal

property seized. Bhai Pardaman Singh and his brothers were imprisoned at Amritsar, placed in irons, and treated with the greatest severity. The religious bodies of the city made great efforts to obtain their release; and, at last, Pardaman Singh contrived to escape, and with his youngest brother Arjan Singh fled to Ludhiana, where he remained under protection of the British Government till the murder of Hira Singh allowed him to return to Lahore. The four brothers obtained the release of a portion of their jagirs in the Amritsar district, amounting to Rs. 5,488. Bhai Pardaman Singh then set out to Hardwar to perform his father's funeral rites, and was promised that on his return the other jagirs of Gurmukh Singh should be released. On his return his houses at Amritsar were made over to him, and he would have probably recovered the rest of the property had not the war with the English commenced while his case was still pending, followed by the annexation of the country in 1849. The jagir of Rs. 5,488 at Mochal and Kuler Ghuma was released for the lives of the brothers, subject to payment of one-quarter revenue. The British Government could do no more for the family. Bhai Gurmukh Singh had acquired his large possessions as much by his intrigues as his sanctity. He played for a high stake, wealth and political power, and lost; and although the Sikh Government, and especially the army, filled with remorse for the murder of the Bhai, which their own evil passions had allowed, would probably have again placed his family in an influential position, yet the British Government could not be expected to feel either sympathy or remorse.

Bhai Pardaman Singh accompanied Sardar Lahna Singh Majithia to Banares in 1853. He was afterwards appointed Superintendent of the repairs of the Darbar Sahib at Amritsar, and had charge of jagirs to the amount of Rs. 4,000 per annum, released in perpetuity for the support of the temple. He was a man of great energy and public spirit, and took a



keen interest in all that concerned the affairs of the Darbar Sahib and the city generally. He was a Member of the Board of Honorary Magistrates of Amritsar. He died in 1875.

Bhai Gurbakhsh Singh has been recognized as his father's successor, and has received the vacant chair in Viceregal Darbar. He is a young man of some promise, and has been carefully educated under the Court of Wards, having passed the Entrance Examination of the Panjab University. Three-fourths of his father's jagir, or Rs. 720 per annum, has been continued to Gurbakhsh Singh for life, and his mother is in receipt of an annual pension of two hundred and forty rupees.

The other property belonging to the family consists of a large garden in Amritsar, a Bungab at the Golden Temple, some shops in different parts of the city, besides a house at Hardwar. Gurbakhsh Singh will shortly attain his majority, when he will doubtless occupy the place held by his father as Manager of the Temple Works and Repairs.

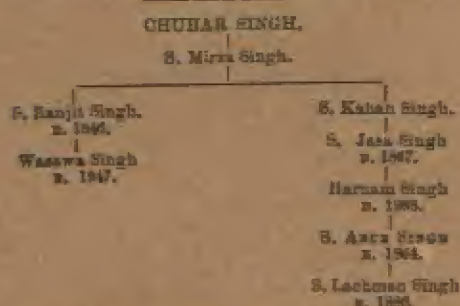
Bhai Arjan Singh died in 1863. His son Jawahir Singh enjoyed an allowance from Government of one hundred rupees per annum, which ceased when he attained his majority in 1882. Arjan Singh's widow receives a pension of Rs. 250 per annum from the Amritsar Treasury.

Jawahir Singh has fallen into evil ways, and has squandered all he possessed.

Madhosudan Singh entered the service in 1857 as a Jama-dar of ten sowars, raised by his brother. He was present at the capture of mutineers at Ajnala in the same year, and, having been made a Rasaldar, was sent to Thanesar, where he died in 1864. His widow has a life-pension of Rs. 250 per annum.

Lahna Singh, the remaining brother, was a Naib-Tahsil-dar; but, owing to domestic bereavements, caused by the death of his wife and two sons, he retired from the service twenty years ago. He is a man of intelligence, and takes a warm interest in female education.

## SARDAR ARUR SINGH NAUSHARIA.



Like the Majithia Chiefs, Sardar Jassa Singh is of the Shergil Jat tribe. Chaudhri Sarwani, the fifteenth in descent from Sher, the founder of the tribe, built the village of Naushahra, otherwise known as Raipur Sarwani, during the reign of the Emperor Shah Jahan, and was permitted to hold it rent-free as remuneration for collecting the revenues of the surrounding districts. For several generations the family held the office of Chaudhri, paying the revenue into the Imperial Treasury, until Mirza Singh joined the confederacy of Sardars Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh Kanhya, about 1752, and obtained, as his share of the conquered territory, the villages of Ratangarh, Uchak, Bhor, Bhikuchak, Rampur, Saluwal, Malkana and several others, worth Rs. 15,000 per annum.

Mirza Singh died in 1787, and Sardar Jaimal Singh, son of Hakikat Singh, unmindful of the many and great services of the deceased, resumed the larger portion of his estates; and Sardar Fateh Singh Kanhya still further reduced them. When, however, the sons of Mirza Singh grew up, Sardar Nadhan Singh Kanhya granted them Madhapur and Saluwal in the Hushiarpur district, worth Rs. 1,500; and Mai Sada Kaur, the mother-in-law of Ranjit Singh, gave to Kahan Singh the villages of Bhogar, Barialah and Kohala, worth Rs. 2,000. When Ranjit Singh seized the possessions of the



Kanhya Misal, Kahan Singh lost the last-named villages; but he was made an officer in the irregular cavalry, and fought with his regiment at Kasur and in the Kangra expedition of 1809. When Sardar Desa Singh Majithia was made Governor of all the hill districts between the Bias and the Satlaj, Kahan Singh was placed under his orders; and from that time both he and his son Jasa Singh remained in the service of the Majithia Chiefs. They accompanied them in the field; filled Civil offices under them; and their history differs in no important respect from that of their feudal lords.

Sardar Jasa Singh had for two years charge of the Sikh temple at Amritsar, under Sardar Lahna Singh Majithia. After Lahna Singh's departure for Banāres, Jasa Singh remained in the employ of the Lahore Darbar; but on the annexation of the Panjab he was thrown out of employ, and his cash pension of Rs. 770 resumed. He held jagirs to the value of Rs. 2,800, chiefly in the Gurdaspur district, at Malkana, Hayati, Salowal, Bahrampur, Malkawala, Ratangarh and Shergarh, besides two wells and a garden at Naoshehra Nangal, where he usually resided. These jagirs are upheld in perpetuity to the family.

Harnam Singh, the only son of Sardar Jasa Singh, was a Deputy Inspector of Police. He died in 1868. Ranjit Singh, brother of Kahan Singh, was never under the Majithia Chiefs. He was soon after the death of his father made a Commandant of Cavalry in Raja Hira Singh's brigade, inheriting a half share of his father's estate. He served at Multan, Bannu, Peshawar and elsewhere, but was not a man of any note. He was killed in 1846, leaving one son, Wasawa Singh, then a child six months old, who died in his infancy.

Harnam Singh left a son, Arur Singh, who at the time of his father's death was four years of age. The estate was brought under the Court of Wards, and was administered successively

by the late Sardars Gulab Singh Bhagowalia and Ajit Singh of Atari. In 1885 Sardar Arur Singh attained his majority and took charge of his affairs. While a Ward of Court his education was not neglected, he having read up to the Entrance Standard. Sardar Arur Singh is Ala Lambardar of Naoshehra and, in virtue of this office, he holds twenty-five ghumaos of land in addition to eighty-five ghumaos situated in the Gurdaspur district. He also owns some house property in Amritsar city, bringing up his annual income to about five thousand rupees. Being a young man of considerable intelligence he has been nominated a Member of the Amritsar Local Board; and in 1888 he was appointed to the Bench of Honorary Magistrates in the city of Amritsar.



## RAI LACHMI SAHAI.



Raja Sahib Dayal is of a respectable Brahman family, whose ancestors were in the service of the Emperors of Delhi. Sughia Ram is said to have defended the life of Mahomed Shah at the risk of his own; for a Rajput assassin, coming one day into the royal Darbar, was about to attack the Emperor, when Sughia Ram threw himself upon him and despatched him, though not without himself receiving a severe wound. His son Kawal Nain emigrated to Lahore, which was in his time a no very desirable place of residence,

from the invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah, and the ever-increasing depredations of the Sikhs, who were rapidly gaining strength and boldness. In a fight with the Afghans no less than twenty-six of his relatives fell; and Kawal Nam himself escaped with difficulty. He died young, leaving an only son, Chaju Mal, then a boy of about ten years of age.

When Chaju Mal grew up, he entered the service of Sardar Jai Singh Kanhya, Chief of the most powerful of the Sikh Confederacies. He received a command in the Sardar's force, and accompanied most of the expeditions against the neighbouring Chiefs. He was present at the battle of Achal in 1783, when Gurbakhsh Singh, son of Sardar Jai Singh, was killed fighting against Jassa Singh Ramgarhia and Mahan Singh Sukarchakia. After this he was made Chaudhri of the Kanhya Katra, or quarter in the town of Amritsar then rising into importance; and on the death of Jai Singh he still held the post under that Chief's daughter-in-law, Mai Sada Kaur. The neighbouring Sardars thought that the principality ruled by a woman must be an easy prey; but the lady, well backed by Chaju Mal, held out bravely. Several times had the latter to defend his Katra against assault and on one occasion in repulsing the Ramgarhias he received two spear wounds. He reduced the customs duties by more than a half, and thus attracted many merchants, who settled in the Kanhya Katra. The young Ranjit Singh, who after his marriage with the daughter of Sada Kaur used to visit Amritsar cautiously, for fear of his enemies the Bhlangis, was accustomed to put up with Chaju Mal, and received much assistance from him in obtaining possession of the city in 1803. With Ramanand he directed the collection of the customs at Amritsar till 1813, when he was sent to Kangra, where he remained three years, and then obtained permission to make a pilgrimage to Hardwar and Banaras.



On his return in 1820 he did not again engage in public business; for the Maharaja had confiscated all the possessions of Sada Kaur, on whose account Chaju Mal had first entered Ranjit Singh's service. He died in 1822.

His eldest son Ralia Ram had received an unusually good education. He was well acquainted with Sanscrit, Persian and Hindi; and had, besides, a fair knowledge of mathematics and physical science. In 1811 he was placed in charge of the Amritsar district, and showed great energy in the suppression of dacoity and highway robbery. Ranjit Singh was so pleased with his zeal that he made him in 1812 chief of the department of Customs. At this time neither Kashmir, Multan, nor the Derajat had been conquered; but, as each was acquired, it was placed under the management, as far as referred to the customs, of Ralia Ram. Before his appointment there had been no regular system of collecting the customs; but each Chief got as much out of merchants passing through his territories as he possibly could. Ralia Ram largely increased the revenue from the salt mines of Pind Dadan Khan, and introduced the *rawana* or passport system.

In 1821, when the Sikh army was engaged in the Mankera Campaign, Sardar Jai Singh Atariwala rose in rebellion, and Misar Ralia Ram with other Sardars was despatched against him. With a considerable force he attacked Kalar Kahar, the stronghold of the rebel Sardar, reduced it, and forced Jai Singh to fly to Dost Mahomed Khan of Kabul for protection. In 1830, Ralia Ram, whose energy and probity had made him enemies at Court, fell into disgrace; chiefly, it is said, through the influence of Karpa Ram Chopra, and was ordered to pay a fine of a lakh of rupees. He was in 1833 made keeper of the Records. In 1841 he discovered at Makhad in the Rawalpindi district a sulphur mine <sup>which</sup> so pleased Maharaja Sher Singh that he <sup>granted</sup> ~~granted~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~him~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~him~~ <sup>his</sup> jagir

of Rs. 11,000 in the Jandiala Ilaka, with a Persian title of honour.

Sahib Dayal, the second son of Misar Ralia Ram, had entered the Sikh service as a Munshi in the Customs department under his father; and in 1832 he was transferred to the Paymaster's office of the regular army. In 1839 he was made chief of the Customs of Jalandhar, and held this appointment till the close of the Satlaj Campaign. After the separation of the large district of Jhang from the province of Multan, of which it formed nearly a third, in 1846 Misar Ralia Ram was appointed its Kardar, and both he and Sahib Dayal were appointed to revise the system of imposts. In August 1847 both father and son received Persian titles of honour, and in September of the same year the whole customs of the country were placed under their superintendence. They were to render accounts every fifteen days, one copy direct to the Resident and one to the Darbar, and had authority to appoint and remove all subordinate officials. The chief burden of the new arrangements fell upon Misar Sahib Dayal; for his father was now an old man, and the greatest credit is due to him for the zeal and ability with which he carried out a system which must, in many particulars, have been opposed to his own ideas of finance.

Under the old Sikh administration duty was levied on almost every article whatever. Little care was taken to discriminate between luxuries and necessities; or equitably to adjust the burden of taxation between the rich and the poor. Fuel, vegetables, corn, ghi, and other necessities to the poorest man had all to pay duty. The taxation was not only ill-adjusted, but was also realized in the most vexatious manner. The country was covered with customs-houses, at which the traveller or merchant was subjected to insolence, extortion and <sup>fraud</sup>. Every town had its own peculiar dues. An article bought in one town must pay import duty; a second



duty was demanded on its transfer to the shop; and a third, if it were again exported into the country. Yet the advantage to the Government from the heaviness of the customs duties was in no way proportional to the vexation to the people and hindrance to commerce caused by them. Under forty-eight heads the customs yielded a gross revenue of Rs. 16,37,114, while the expense of collection was Rs. 1,10,000, or nearly seven per cent. The accounts of Diwan Mulraj, who was the Manager of the salt mines of Pind Dadan Khan until they were placed under Ralia Ram, showed that out of returns of Rs. 8,18,820, thirty per cent. was lost by wastage and expenses of management.

Under Major H. Lawrence, the Resident, and his brother John Lawrence, ably seconded by Misar Ralia Ram and Sahib Dayal, the whole system was changed. The custom-houses, the transit and town dues were abolished. Three frontier lines were established: one along the Bias and the Satlaj; one along the Indus; and the third on the north-east frontier for the commerce of Kashmir. The new customs were limited to twenty-two articles, which were estimated to yield Rs. 13,04,822 at a cost of collection of Rs. 37,000, or less than 3 per cent. The new revenue was to be raised by Abkari licenses, a light toll on ferries estimated to yield a lakh, and by better and more economical management of the salt mines. This immense relief to commerce was effected at a loss of only one-eighth of customs revenue. After annexation the customs duties were abolished throughout the Panjab; but six years later the excise yielded six lakhs, and the salt revenue nineteen lakhs; and from the removal of restrictions to commerce, the country had increased in material prosperity to an unprecedented extent.

In November 1847 Misar Sahib Dayal received the title of *Maharaja-udaula bahar*. In June 1848, three months after the outbreak at Multan, Bhai Maharaj Singh, a disciple

of the celebrated Baba Bir Singh, having collected a large number of disaffected men, set out from the Manjha to join the rebel Mulraj at Multan. None of the Sikh troops would attempt his arrest; but Misar Sahib Dayal, then Kardar of Jhang, where the population is Mahomedan, engaged that if Maharaj Singh could be driven in the Jhang direction he would answer that he proceeded no further. This was fortunately effected. Some irregulars, with part of the 14th Dragoons, pursued the force of the Bhai; Langar Khan of Saluwal, Malik Sahib Khan Tawana and other Mahomedan Chiefs hung on its rear; and by the time that the Bhai reached Jhang his force had diminished to twelve hundred exhausted men, who were attacked vigorously by Baba Mali Singh, Tahsildar, with the forces of Misar Sahib Dayal, and driven into the swollen Chanab, where more than half the number were drowned, and those who escaped the sword and the river were taken as prisoners to Lahore.

Throughout the war the services of Sahib Dayal and his father were important and numerous. They preserved order in the Rechna and in part of the Chaj Doab, and furnished large supplies of grain to the British army on its march. Sahib Dayal, when the rebel Sher Singh was marching up from Multan, seized upwards of two thousand head of mules, camels and bullocks belonging to the Raja, and thus materially checked the advance of the rebel army, if it did not alter the direction of its march. In November Misar Sahib Dayal was selected by the Resident to accompany the head-quarters camp of the British army on the part of the Darbar. In the performance of this duty the Misar showed the greatest intelligence and zeal. He procured excellent information of the movements of the enemy, and kept the army well supplied with provisions. He afterwards, with Nawab Imamudin Khan, Sakandar Khan, Banda Khan and others, proceeded to join the force of Colonel Taylor, and on the submission



of the principal rebels was useful in clearing the country.

On annexation, the jagir of Rs. 1,100 of Raha Ram, with a cash allowance of Rs. 6,500, was maintained to him for life; Rs. 3,200 of the cash to descend to his son Shankar Nath. To Sahib Dayal was confirmed his jagir of Rs. 5,180, with a cash allowance of Rs. 2,800 for life. Of the jagir, Rs. 985 were to descend for three generations, and Rs. 1,200 were granted in perpetuity. Both Raha Ram and Sahib Dayal were rich men. No one who ever held the farm of the salt mines failed to grow rich; for the contractor paid a certain sum to Government annually, and might sell, as he pleased, at his own place and time. In the hands of so able a man as Raha Ram the salt contract was a great source of wealth, though he in no way forgot his duty to the State, in regard for his personal interest. The Lahore Government had few servants so able as Raha Ram and Sahib Dayal, and it had none so honest. They were, in the last corrupt days of the administration, almost the only men who manfully and faithfully did their duty, and who had the wisdom to understand and support the enlightened policy of the British Resident; the only policy which could have saved the country from the evils that afterwards came upon it.

In 1849, both Raha Ram and Sahib Dayal left the Panjab on a pilgrimage to the holy cities. Raha Ram, who had been made Diwan by the Sikh Government of 1847 was in 1851 created a Raja; and Sahib Dayal also received the same title. Never were honours better merited. Raja Raha Ram never returned to the Panjab, and died at Banares in April 1864; Raja Sahib Dayal came back in 1851, and resided at Kishan-Kot in the Amritsar district, a town of which he may be said to be the founder, where he built a serai, three temples, a tank and two wells. During the mutinies of 1857, Raja Sahib Dayal, by his advice and action, showed his loyalty to

Government, and received a khilat of Rs. 1,000. In 1850 he received an additional grant in perpetuity of a jagir of Rs. 2,000. In February 1864 he was appointed a member of the Legislative Council of India, and took his seat in Calcutta, returning to the Panjab at the close of the session. He died at Amritsar in 1885, regretted by all classes. His two sons had died in their father's lifetime, and the family jagir passed to his grandson Thakur Barkishan Singh, son of Bansi Lal. The other grandson, Mahar Ghani, is at present reading in the Antchison College, Lahore.

The other sons of Ralla Ram may be briefly noticed. Ajudhia Parskar, the eldest, was of a retiring disposition, and employed himself in devotion. He died young, and his son Jai Gopal was employed under Ralla Ram in the customs department. Jai Gopal died in 1853. His son Dina Nath is a Naib-Tahsildar in the Lahore district. Two others of his sons, Bishan Nath and Basant Ram, have settled in Banarès. The youngest, Baswari Lal, received a pension of Rs. 120 per annum during his minority.

Ganan Chand was, in the Maharaja's time, at the head of the office of salt revenue at Pind Dadan Khan under Raja Gulab Singh. Under the British Government he was appointed Tahsildar of Pind Dadan Khan, but retired in 1854, and settled at Amritsar, where in 1882 he was appointed an Honorary Magistrate, which office he filled with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the people. He died at Amritsar in 1878. Rai Lachmi Sahai, Extra Assistant Commissioner, his elder son, may be regarded as the leading member of the family. The second son, Bhagat Ram, is a Tahsildar in the Jalandhar State. Rai Lachmi Sahai's elder son, Davi Sahai, is also in the service of the Maharaja of Jammu as a forest officer. His second son Jawala Sahai is a student at the College. He has passed the B. A. Exam., and his



name is on the list of accepted candidates for an Extra Assistant Commissionership. The brothers, Lachmi Sahai and Bhagat Ram, hold jointly one hundred and twenty ghumaos of land in the Amritsar Tahsil, and sixty ghumaos in Tahsil Pind Dadan Khan.

Shankar Nath first received an appointment in the Amritsar Mint, and was then made Assistant in the Chach and Hazara districts. During the rebellion of 1848-49, he, like all his brothers, did good service, and preserved a semblance of order about Batala, Dinanagar, and Pathankot. He died in 1887 at Banares, where he had been residing for some years. His sons live at Amritsar.

Sardar Harcharan Das began public life as an assistant in the Customs Department; but during the Wizarat of Raja Hira Singh he was made commandant of seven hundred horse in the Mulrajia Dera. In 1848 he was appointed by the Darbar, *Adalati* or Judge of Lahore, with the honorary title of *Rukn-udaula*. On annexation he held Rs. 10,000, which was confirmed to him while holding the office of Extra Assistant Commissioner, which had been conferred on him in place of the Judgeship. The Sardar resigned in 1852, and his jagir was reduced to Rs. 3,998. He lived at Amritsar, between which city and Lahore he, at his own expense, built a handsome Sarai. The family have always been known for benevolence and liberality, which is testified to by the many works of public utility and convenience which have been constructed at their expense in many parts of the Panjab. Besides those already mentioned, the Sarai near the Rambagh gate of Amritsar was built by Raja Ralia Ram; also a Sarai and temple by the Nagrahwai ferry on the Bias, and a masonry tank in the city of Amritsar.

Sardar Harcharan Das died in 1884. His jagirs aggregating Rs. 3,988 in the Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts, lapsed on his death. He had also been in receipt of an allowance of

Rs. 1,200 per annum from the Kapurthala State. The Sardar was one of the leading men in Amritsar, of which city he was an Honorary Magistrate. His children Mohkam Chand and Kishor Chand have an income of about four thousand rupees per annum, including a mafi in seventy-three ghumaos of land in Mauza Karenda, Tahsil Taran Taran, Amritsar, attached to the Sarai on the Lahore Road already mentioned; and an allowance of Rs. 1,560 from the Kapurthala State. The remainder is made up of rents from houses and shops.



SARDAR HIRA SINGH MAN.



Sardar Sardul Singh Man is of the same descent as the Man Sardars of Mogalchak in the Gujarawala district. Some account of the Man Jat tribe will be found in the history of the Mogalchak family. The branch of the Man tribe to which Sardul Singh belongs had for many generations been resident at Mananwala in the Amritsar district, when, the village having been plundered and destroyed about the year 1720, Tara Singh abandoned it with his whole family, and settled at Nari with his brothers-in-law. The Sikhs were at this time becoming powerful; and Tara Singh with a band of horsemen, composed chiefly of members of his own clan, seized and held, till his death, several villages in the Amritsar district. Juman Singh, his son, was an enterprising man, and was far more successful than his father in the art of plunder and annexation. He joined the Bhāngi Confederacy, and

acquired jagirs in the Lahore, Sialkot and Amritsar districts. He rebuilt Mananwala and took up his residence there.

Karam Singh was succeeded by his two sons, Ram Singh and Sham Singh. These young men, about 1780, left the Bhangi Misal and went over to Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia, by whom they were very well treated, and allowed a share both in his fighting and his plunder. Ram Singh does not seem to have had any enmity against his old associates, for he married his only child, Bibi Sada Kaur, to a Bhangi Chief, Sardar Sobha Singh Haluwalia, builder of Kila Sobha Singh in the Sialkot district, and son of Sardar Bhag Singh Haluwalia. In 1788 Ram Singh died, and his younger brother Sham Singh was allowed to succeed to the whole estate. In 1790, however, Sardar Mahan Singh confiscated all but Mananwala and Raliabadho, worth Rs. 20,000 per annum, which Sham Singh enjoyed till his death, giving no service during the life of Mahan Singh; but under Ranjit Singh, furnishing a contingent of fifteen horsemen.

Sardar Fateh Singh had been early introduced to Ranjit Singh by his father; and when Prince Kharak Singh was a few years old Fateh Singh was appointed especially for his service. The Sardar served in the Kangra Campaign of 1809; at Daska, where he was wounded in the shoulder; at Chunian, where he was wounded in his hand; and at Sahiwal, where, after the capture of the town from Fateh Khan, he was appointed Commandant, and where he remained for a year. In 1811 he received from Kharak Singh, from his personal estates, a jagir worth Rs. 1,00,000, subject to the service of three hundred horse. Other Jagirdars, amounting with their contingents to seven hundred men, were also placed under his command, and he was sent to Jamu to reduce some insurgent to order; and after this he was sent with other Sardars to Kulu and Kangra. He fought at the battle of Attock and



in the miserable Kashmir expedition of 1814, he, with Diwan Jiwan Mal, accompanied the detachment of Ram Dayal on the part of Prince Kharak Singh. Soon after this Sardar Fateh Singh was again sent to Jamu to put down an insurrection. In this he was successful, and brought in all the ringleaders to Lahore. But Bhaia Ram Singh, the mukhtar or confidential agent of Prince Kharak Singh, who hated Fateh Singh on account of his power and influence, concocted a plot to destroy his reputation.

He induced Gulab Singh and Dhian Singh (afterwards Rajas) to murder the two chief ringleaders, by name Trehnu and Suthra, who had been concerned in the murder of their uncle Mian Mota, and to release the other insurgents, who fled to their native hills and again raised disturbances. At this, as Bhaia Ram Singh anticipated, the Prince was very angry, and resumed the jagir which he had given to Fateh Singh. The Maharaja, however, took pity upon the disgraced favourite, and gave him a jagir of Rs. 35,000 and a cash allowance of Rs. 15,000, subject to the service of one hundred and twenty-five horsemen. At Multan, in 1818, the reduction of the fort of Kot Bajai Khan was entrusted to the Sardar, and he was successful in taking it. He accompanied the Kashmir expedition of 1819, and the next year crossed the Satlaj on a visit to his estate at Mablan. The Maharaja, who was marching towards Rawalpindi, summoned him; but he only sent his son Sardul Singh with the contingent. This conduct irritated Ranjit Singh, who, suspecting that the Sardar was intriguing with the English, resumed all his jagirs, with the exception of Manauwala.

It was not till the capture of Mankera, in December 1820, when Fateh Singh behaved gallantly, that he was taken into favour, received new jagirs, and was made commandant of the captured fort. He went with the Maharaja to Bahawalpur in 1823, and afterwards accompanied the two

Bannu expeditions of Prince Sher Singh and Prince Kharak Singh, while his son acted for him at Mankera.

In 1829 the Sardar was again placed in the suite of Prince Kharak Singh; and two years later his son was recalled from Mankera and placed in command of a troop of cavalry. In 1831 he accompanied Prince Sher Singh and General Ventura against the celebrated Sayad Ahmad, who had lost his influence with the Afghans, Trans-Indus, and had taken up his head-quarters at Balakot in Hazara, where he trusted for support to the tribes of Dhamtaur and Pakhli and to his Hindustani followers. Here he was attacked by the Sikhs; the fort of Balakot was taken, and the Sayad himself with most of his followers slain, though it was afterwards declared that he escaped, the river opening to receive him. In 1834 the Sardar went to Peshawar in the suite of Prince Nao Nahal Singh, and afterwards remained on duty at Bannu, Tank and Peshawar till the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. When that event took place, Fateh Singh was at Peshawar with Nao Nahal Singh; and Sardul Singh was at Tank. From the new Maharaja the Sardar received additional jagirs at Kotbari Khan, Gujranwala, worth Rs. 30,000, which made his estates amount to Rs. 83,000 subject to the service of one hundred horse.

Sardul Singh served under General Ventura in 1840-41 in the Mandi campaign, and at the siege and capture of Kamlagarh. In April 1841 Fateh Singh, with seven hundred horse, was appointed to escort ten lakhs of treasure from Ferozpur to Peshawar, *en route* for Kabul. In February 1845, when Raja Lal Singh, after long altercations with his rival Sardar Jawahir Singh, whom he feared to leave behind at Lahore, consented to head the army proceeding against Raja Gulab Singh at Jammu, Fateh Singh Man was one of the Chiefs whom he insisted upon taking with him. Soon after joining the army, Lal Singh sent



Fateh Singh with some others to negotiate. The envoys were received by Gulab Singh with all honour, and were amused for some days with the alternate promises of submission and threats of defiance, which the Raja had always in store for such occasions. At length they returned with the declaration of Gulab Singh that he would abide by the terms of the Treaty concluded by his agents in Lahore. He denied the amount of the Lahore claims, but said that he would pay them if proved; and for this purpose requested that Wazir Bachna,\* Hira Nand and Ganpat Rai, confidential servants of his nephew Hira Singh, and upon whose authority the claims had been made, should be sent to him. The envoys, accordingly, with these three men returned to Jamu.

Besides Fateh Singh Man, the deputation to Jamu consisted of Baba Mian Singh, an old Bedi of great sanctity, Ratan Chand Dogal, one of the most influential of the Mutsadi or Munshi party, and Sardar Sher Singh Atariwala. They remained at Jamu for some days, but could not come to any definite terms; for Gulab Singh was carrying on separate negotiations with the Sikh army, whose Panchayats were also in Jamu.

At last, on the 28th February, after a violent altercation between Wazir Bachna and the Raja, the latter gave four lakhs of rupees as an earnest of the full discharge of the just claims against him, and the deputation took its leave. Passing through a hedge of thorns, which had been thrown round the town of Jamu, the envoys were fired at by a body of the Raja's troops. Sardar Fateh Singh and Wazir Bachna were

\* Until the death of Maharaja Sher Singh, Bachna, a Jat of Jandials in the Shekhopura Pargana, was manager of Raja Hira Singh's hill estates under Pannoh Jala. When the Pandit went to Lahore, on Hira Singh becoming Minister, Bachna succeeded him in the hills with the title of Wazir. When Raja Gulab Singh gave over Jaserote to the Darbar in January 1846, Bachna remained to give over the treasure, and was then summoned to Lahore. There he took advantage of the discontents, excited by the news of Sikh exiles in the hills to get himself re-appointed Governor of Jaserote, under the Darbar, and was on his way to take up his post when summoned to Jamu. He was an able man, much loved by the hill people for his mildness and honesty.

killed on the spot, and Diwan Ganpat Rai, who was on the same elephant with them, was mortally wounded and died the next day. Raja Gulab Singh protested his innocence and his grief, and that the catastrophe had happened contrary to his wishes and his orders. The Baba, Sher Singh and Ratan Chand he detained at Jamu as hostages and as negotiators.

That this assassination was planned by Gulab Singh there is no shadow of doubt. He had, it is true, no hostile feelings against Fateh Singh, but the Sardar was upon the same elephant with the man he had determined to destroy; and as Mian Utam Singh died with Nao Nahal Singh, so did Fateh Singh with Wazir Bachna.

When Bachna had been re-appointed Governor of Jasrota, Gulab Singh thought that it was the same as if he himself had recovered possession. But he was disappointed. Pandit Jala had taught Bachna to hate and distrust Gulab Singh; and when he joined the deputation, the Raja saw that his fancied friend was entirely in the interests of the Darbar. He knew that, as an enemy, Bachna could do him vast injury; for he was so popular in the hills that he could have brought over Gulab Singh's Rajput troops to the side of the Sikhs; and the Raja consequently determined on his destruction.

The death of Sardar Fateh Singh was much lamented by the Chiefs; but the army, though it was convenient to use his death as a weapon against Gulab Singh, did not at this time care much for Sardars, certainly not for men of the old school like Fateh Singh, who looked upon the regular army as a most dangerous innovation, and whose traditions were all of the days of the Great Maharaja.

Two months later, when Raja Gulab Singh had been brought to Lahore, eleven lakhs of rupees out of the sixty-eight lakhs which he was compelled to pay was charged in the account as blood-money for the death of Sardar Fateh Singh.



In May 1845 Sardar Jawahir Singh confiscated the Rs. 30,000 jagir given to Fateh Singh by Maharaja Kharak Singh. Sardul Singh was at this time at Hasan Abdal, and in August of the same year he, with the Atariwala and other Sardars, recovered the fort of Attock from Prince Pashora Singh. He fought in the Satlaj Campaign; and in August 1846 Raja Lal Singh, the Minister, without any apparent cause, confiscated all his remaining jagirs with the exception of Mananwala, worth Rs. 3,000. Sardul Singh went to Simla to appeal to Major Lawrence, and accompanied that officer back to Lahore. After Lal Singh's deposition and banishment, the creditors of Sardar Fateh Singh pressed Sardul Singh for payment of his father's debts amounting to Rs. 1,25,000; and Major Lawrence induced the Darbar to allow him jagirs of Rs. 21,000, subject to the service of thirty sowars. Twenty of these sowars, however, were to be excused for five years; the sum allowed for their service, Rs. 6,000, being applied to the liquidation of the debt. On annexation the personal estates of the family, amounting to Rs. 10,500, were upheld for life, and Rs. 3,000 in perpetuity; Rs. 2,147 to the male issue of Sardul Singh, and Rs. 853 to the male issue of Jawala Singh.

Sardar Jawala Singh, who was not on good terms with Sardul Singh, died in 1860. Bibi Kako, their sister, who married Sardar Ajit Singh Sindhanwalia, on hearing the news of the death of her husband in the fort of Lahore, in September 1843, burnt herself with his clothes at Naorangahad. During the rebellion of 1848 Sardar Sardul Singh remained faithful to Government; and in 1857 did as much as his embarrassed circumstances would allow in raising horsemen for service in Hindustan.

Sardar Sardul Singh Man died in 1881. He had latterly taken no active part in public affairs, his time being fully occupied in domestic matters. Possessing a peculiar temper,

he was often on bad terms with his sons and other relatives. His jagir of Rs. 7,500 lapsed, with the exception of Rs. 2,143, which was continued to his two surviving sons, Partab Singh and Jiwan Singh. The sons also hold shares in the ancestral villages of Mananwala and Mahoka in the Amritsar district, and a garden in Amritsar city ; as also in the village of Mananwala in Tahsil Hafizabad, Gujranwala, which was founded by their father.

Mahtab Singh, son of Partab Singh, married the daughter of Arjan Singh of Rupar in Ambala. He received no education and takes little interest in public affairs.

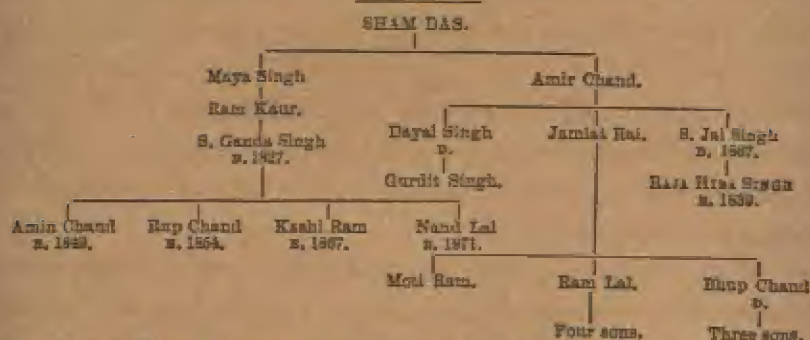
Jiwan Singh has been married twice, but has no issue. One of his wives was a daughter of Sardar Fateh Singh of Jalandhar ; the second a daughter of Sardar Utam Singh, Deputy Inspector of Police in Montgomery.

Sardar Raja Singh and Hira Singh, sons of Sardar Jawala Singh, succeeded on the death of their father to a jagir of Rs. 857 in their ancestral villages of Mananwala and Mahoka. Raja Singh died in 1883. He was succeeded by his only surviving son Gurbakhsh Singh.

Hira Singh is a Member of the District Board, and Chairman of the Amritsar Local Board. He rendered good service when transport animals were being purchased during the late Kabul War, and also on other occasions ; and he may be said to be the only remaining prominent member of this good old family. He is a Viceregal Darbari.



## RAJA HIRA SINGH OF HIRAPUR.\*



Raja Hira Singh is a Gondar Sud Khatri Sikh, whose home is at Hirapur, a village founded by himself near Chabal in the Taran Taran Tahsil. His grandfather was a writer of ordinary status under the Khalsa. His father, Sardar Jai Singh, commenced soldiering as a Jamadar in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's French Regiment. For a conspicuous act of courage at Peshawar in 1848, when Lawrence was attacked by the mutinous Sikh troops, Jai Singh was appointed Rasaldar in the 1st Panjab Irregular Cavalry, raised and commanded by Sir Henry Daly, who mentioned in the highest terms the brave behaviour of this fine old Sikh in more than one frontier expedition. He records of him: "There is not in the army a more gallant soldier, and I know no abler or more experienced officer." General John Watson further writes: "He is one of the most able and excellent officers, and the most honest and upright I have ever met. He has been my right hand during the whole of the Mutiny Campaign, from the siege of Dehli to the fall of Lucknow." These commendations were warmly endorsed by Sir James Hope Grant, who commanded the Cavalry Division at Lucknow, as well as by Sir Colin Campbell, Commander-in-Chief. At the close of the campaign Sardar Jai Singh's services were transferred as commandant of the 4th Regiment of Oudh Mounted Police. He received a

\* Not in the original Edition.

grant of twenty-six villages in the Jamdan Ilaka of the Baraich District, in addition to the Orders of Merit and of British India, and the usual military pension. He died in 1867.

His son, Hira Singh, has proved himself a not less worthy servant of the Queen. He commenced service in 1855 as a Dafadar in his father's regiment, and was appointed Jamadar on the outbreak of the Mutiny, being promoted to a Rasaldarship at its close. He took part in most of the important actions, and was present at the capture of Dehli and Lucknow, receiving the Order of Merit. He then volunteered for service in China, and was attached as Rasaldar to Fane's Horse, doing excellent service. He resigned his commission on the death of his father, and set himself to improve his Talukdari property in Oudh, adding to the estates by the purchase of eighty thousand bigas in the Parthapur Ilaka, Tahsil Nanpara, Baraich; and he has the name of being a model landlord, punctual in his revenue payments, and kind and considerate to his tenants. He has also acquired by purchase the estate of Hirapur in the Taran Taran Tahsil, Amritsar; and both in the Panjab and in Oudh his name stands high as a generous friend of the poor, and a liberal contributor to all deserving charities. He has set apart a considerable sum, the interest of which is devoted to the purchase of quinine for the fever-stricken on his estates. He presented the people of Chabal, his native village, with a handsome tank built at a cost of twenty thousand rupees, and provided for its perpetual repair by investing ten thousand rupees in Government funds for this special purpose. His works of public utility in Baraich and at Nipalganj have been numerous, and they are thoroughly appreciated by the people, who regard him as less of a foreigner than the other Panjabi landowners, who are not always in sympathy with the local population.



Sardar Hira Singh was honoured with the title of Raja, bestowed upon him at the recommendation of Sir Auckland Colvin by his Excellency the Marquess of Dufferin in December 1888. General Walter Fane, who perhaps knew him more intimately than any other British officer, wrote of him as follows: "I know no native whom I can more honestly praise than Hira Singh, and he has left my regiment to the regret of every officer and man. He served with great gallantry and distinction before Dehli and throughout the subsequent campaign of 1858. He was the first to volunteer for foreign service in China, and was of the greatest assistance to me in raising Fane's Horse. There is not an officer or man in my regiment I would not sooner spare than Hira Singh. I believe him to be one of the most truthful and straightforward officers I ever knew."

The Raja's second cousin, Sardar Ganda Singh, was for many years a Rasaldar in the 19th Bengal Lancers. Ganda Singh's eldest son, Amin Chand, is a district officer in the Jamu State; and two others of his children are employed in Kapurthala.

## SARDAR HARDIT SINGH BAHADAR CHINAH.



An ancestor of this family, Milkhu, a Jat of the Gil tribe, founded the village of Chinah, some five miles from Raja Sansi in the Amritsar district, about the year 1600. His eldest son Dadu founded a second village of the same name near Jastarwal, and here his descendants have resided to the present day. The family were simple peasants till the time of Milkhu, who joined the Confederacy of Tara Singh Shahid. Of Milkhu's five sons the most distinguished was Karam Singh, whom Tara Singh, who had no children of his own, adopted. After Tara Singh's death Karam Singh



joined the Bhangi Misal and took possession of Firozki, Kalaki, Rurki and Bajra in the Sialkot district; besides holding Chinah and the neighbouring villages. All the Bhangi Sardars fell, one by one, before Ranjit Singh, and Karam Singh shared the common fate and lost all his estates; but no long time afterwards he received back in jagir Chinah, Nagran and Firozki, worth Rs. 50,000, subject to the service of seventy horsemen. With his two sons, Sukh Singh and Budh Singh, he served in many campaigns: Multan, Kashmir and Peshawar; and on his death the jagir descended to his sons in equal shares.

Through all the changes which ensued on the death of Ranjit Singh, the jagir remained undiminished till, in 1846, Raja Lal Singh reduced it to Rs. 21,600, subject to the service of twenty-five horsemen. Two years later most of the members of the family joined the rebels under Sher Singh, and fought in their ranks throughout the war. Accordingly, on annexation the shares of Jai Singh, Mohar Singh, Hari Singh, Hardit Singh, Amar Singh, Atar Singh and Fateh Singh were resumed; and an allowance of Rs. 240 was granted to each of them for life. The confiscated shares amounted to Rs. 15,725 per annum, and only Badan Singh and Mahan Singh, who had remained loyal, were allowed to retain their shares, amounting to Rs. 5,875, of which Rs. 1,750 were personal and Rs. 4,125 subject to service.

During the Mutiny, Jai Singh, Hardit Singh and Amar Singh entered Hodson's Horse, Jai Singh as Rasaldar, Hardit Singh as Jamadar, and served with that distinguished corps till February 1859, when, on the general reduction, Jai Singh and Amar Singh obtained their discharge. The former received a grant of a life jagir of Rs. 300, and the latter fifty ghumaos of land free of revenue in Rakh Utian, Tahsil Ajnala.

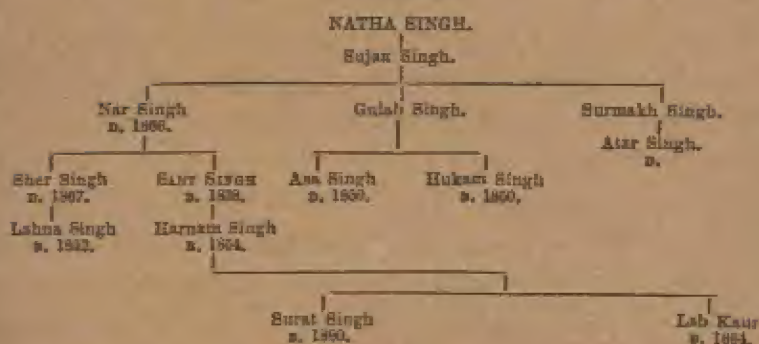
Hardit Singh is still serving as Rasaldar-Major, with the title of Sardar Bahadar, in the 9th Bengal Lancers.

He became a Viceregal Darbari in succession to his deceased brother Sardar Jai Singh in 1876, and is now at the head of the family. His son Mahtab Singh is a Rasaldar in the 6th Bengal Cavalry. For his services in the Egyptian campaign of 1882 Mahtab Singh was rewarded with the title of Sardar Bahadar. Partab Singh, nephew of Sardar Hardit Singh, is a Dafadar in the 16th Bengal Cavalry. Sardar Jai Singh's pension and jagir lapsed on his death in 1876. His widow was allowed a pension of Rs. 120 per annum for a term of twelve years, as a help towards the maintenance of the younger children. She died about two years ago. Sardar Hari Singh's allowances lapsed, in like manner, in 1880, with continuance of Rs. 120 per annum to his son Natha Singh. Sardar Badan Singh died in 1877 leaving five sons, to whom Government continued one-third of their father's jagir in Mouzas Chinah and Chak, valued at Rs. 400 per annum. His eldest son Kahar Singh is a member of the Amritsar District Board.

The family is connected by marriage with the Sardars of Bunga, Kandaula and Raja Sansi (Amritsar), and may be still regarded as having considerable local influence.



## SARDAR SANT SINGH, AIMAHWALA.



About the year 1788 Natha Singh, an Upal Jat, left his home at Lakarki, in the Gurdaspur district, and, coming to Amritsar, rebuilt a ruined village to which, in defiance of the rights of the late inhabitants, he gave the name of Aimah, signifying land held in proprietary right. His son Sujan Singh inherited not only this village, but the jagirs of his uncle Dal Singh, who had been slain in a quarrel with Sardar Sawa Singh Aulakhwala. These estates were of considerable size, comprising many villages in the Daska, Pasrur and Ajnala parganas.

In the famine year of 1783,\* Sujan Singh contrived to seize Chaharbarjwa in the Sialkot district from Brij Raj Deo, son of Raja Ranjit Deo. He was associated with the Bhangi Misal, and fought under Sardar Karam Singh. He died in 1799, and his eldest son Nar Singh, still a youth, joined Sardar Gulab Singh Bhangi, who was chief of the confederacy formed against Ranjit Singh soon after his capture of Lahore. An expedition was fitted out against him, which Nar Singh joined; but it was broken up by the death of

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\* The famine of 1783 was the most terrible of any remembered in the Panjab. It was the last of three bad years; many thousands died of starvation, and many emigrated to Kashmir and Hindustan. The year is known by the people as the *Saa Choli*, being the Sambat year 1840.

Sardar Gulab Singh, from the effects of a prolonged debauch at Kothani.

Soon after this, in 1803, Nar Singh joined Ranjit Singh, and accompanied him in the Pindi Bhatian Campaign, and later in the expedition against the Bhangis and the fort of Kalar, which was bravely defended by Jodh Singh Atariwala. In 1804 he went with Ranjit Singh again against Raja Sansar Chand Katoch, who had tried to possess himself of a portion of the Jalandhar Doab, but who was defeated near Hushiarpur and driven back to the hills. The next expedition shared in by Nar Singh was that against Hafiz Ahmad Khan of Jhang, resulting in the imprisonment of that Chief and the seizure of his estates. He served in the first unsuccessful campaign of Multan, and in both the Kashmir expeditions under Diwan Ram Dayal in the Dera of Prince Kharak Singh; and on the conquest of Kashmir he received a jagir of Rs. 14,000 at Samba in the Jammu territory. He fought in the battle of Teri in 1823, and served under Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa in Nara. In 1835-36 he accompanied the Sikh force under Prince Kharak Singh against the Mazaris of Mithankot.

When Jawahir Singh became Minister, Nar Singh was treated with great favour; for he had married as his second wife an aunt of Maharani Jindan, the sister of Jawahir Singh. He received the present of an elephant with gold housings, was placed in command of the Malrajia regiment, and was sent with the Samba Sardar against the insurgents who had ravaged the country in the neighbourhood of Phalian, Gujrat, and had looted the shrine of Ker Sahib, a place of some sanctity, where Gura Nanak had slept on the Ker, or heaps of earth thrown up by the rats. The insurgents were speedily reduced to order, and the plundered property in a great measure recovered.

During the Satlaj Campaign, Nar Singh served under Sardar Ranjodh Singh Majithia. He remained faithful to I



Government during the Multan rebellion, as did his contingent of sowars, and was sent to Pind Dadan Khan under the orders of Misar Ralia Ram, Superintendent of the Salt Mines. He returned to Lahore with Raja Dina Nath after the latter's unsuccessful mission to Sardar Chatar Singh. From the year 1825, when Sardar Nar Singh's principal jagirs were resumed, he had only held jagirs worth Rs. 2,200 and cash allowances of Rs. 3,761. His jagir was in 1849 confirmed to him for life. He died in 1866.

Gulab Singh, brother of Nar Singh, served in the Mulrajia regiment on Rs. 500 per annum. His daughter married Sardar Lahna Singh Majithia, but died within six months of her marriage. The third brother, Surmakh Singh, died young.

Sardar Sant Singh, son of Nar Singh, is now at the head of the family. The jagir holdings have been resumed, and Sant Singh finds himself in reduced circumstances. His mother, Musammat Kishan Kaur, who died in 1884, was in receipt of a compassionate allowance of Rs. 240 per annum. Harnam Singh married a daughter of Sardar Kahan Singh Rosa, of Todarpur, in the Lahore district. She was a niece of Maharaja Dalip Singh's mother, Maharani Jindan. The Sardar and his son Harnam Singh live at Aimahwala near Chabal in Amritsar. He holds two hundred acres in proprietary right. He is a man of good presence, and takes an interest in public affairs, being a member of the Local Board and a Lambardar in his village.

Sardar Sant Singh is a Viceregal Darbari.

## SARDAR ARJAN SINGH, OF CHAHAL.

KATHA SINGH.

|  
Karam Singh  
d. 1823.|  
Gurmukh Singh  
d. 1836.|  
Jawala Singh  
d. 1848.|  
ARJAN SINGH  
d. 1848.|  
Ikbal Singh  
d. 1893.

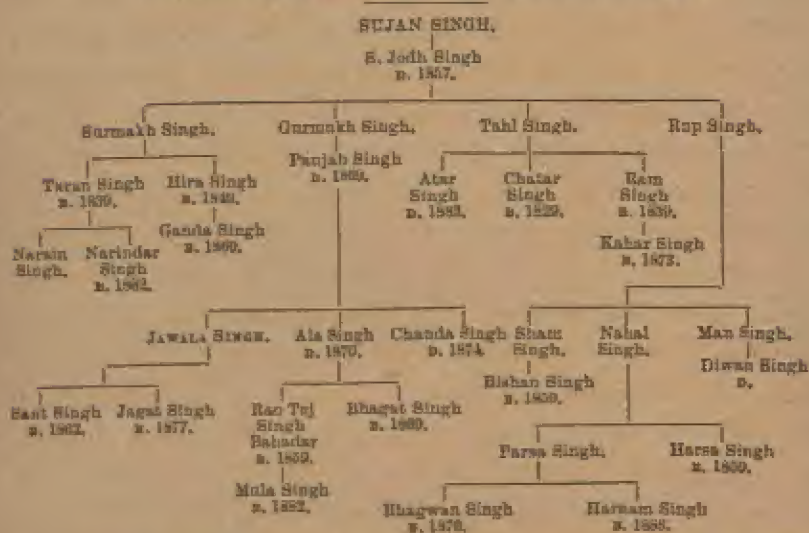
Katha Singh, a Chahal Jat, was, with his brothers, in the service of the Bhangi Sardars, Lahna Singh and Gujar Singh, who in 1764 had taken possession of Lahore. No one of them rose to any importance, but held small service jagirs. Katha Singh was killed in a skirmish on the borders of Bahawalpur, and his son Karam Singh succeeded to the jagirs, worth Rs. 5,000. For some years Karam Singh fought with the Bhangi Misal, and he became known for gallantry and ability till, in 1799, Ranjit Singh took Lahore from Chet Singh, son of Sardar Lahna Singh. Karam Singh, at first followed the fortunes of his old master, to whom Ranjit Singh had given a jagir of Rs. 60,000; but seeing at last that it was useless to remain with one who could not advance his interests in any way, he took service with the Maharaja, who gave him several villages in Ajnala. He rapidly rose to favour and became a very powerful Sardar. After the Pindi Bhatian and Jhang expeditions he received several new villages in jagir; and after the Kasur Campaign, where he had especially distinguished himself, Ranjit Singh gave him the Ilakas of Doda and Khanowal. His jagirs at length reached the value of Rs. 1,50,000, subject to the service of two hundred and fifty horsemen, and included the villages held by Arjan Singh at the present day. Sardar Karam Singh fell mortally wounded by a musket ball in the battle of Ferozi in 1823, when the wild Yusufzai Ghazis so nearly defeated the best



Sikh troops. He was carried to his tent, but died the following day ; and his loss was much felt both by the Maharaja and the army, in which he held command of the Gurkha battalion. His only surviving son, Gurmukh Singh, succeeded to the whole jagir. This young man had already for some years served under his father, and had fought in the battle of Teri. When Diwan Chuni Lal was appointed Governor of Kashmir after Diwan Moti Ram had been for the second time recalled, Gurmukh Singh was sent to support him, and he remained there two years. In 1836 he was ordered to Kohat, where he did good and gallant service ; but was carried off by cholera in September of that year. Jawala Singh was at the time of his father's death only four years old, and the Maharaja resumed all the estates, with the exception of one, worth Rs. 3,000, which was placed under the superintendence of Raja Hira Singh. Jawala Singh himself died in 1846 at the age of twenty-four, leaving one son, Arjan Singh, aged seven. For his support, and in consideration of his family, Maharaja Dalip Singh released two villages, Ghari and Lahian, together worth Rs. 1,000, which on the annexation of the Panjab were confirmed to him for life, with two wells at Chahal in the Taran Taran pargana of the Amritsar district, which have since been released in perpetuity.

Arjan Singh's jagir, under the revised settlement, is now worth Rs. 2,500 per annum. He and his son Ikbāl Singh are the sole representatives of the family. The Sardar is a man of much force of character and intelligence. He has held a seat on the District Board for many years, and is Chairman of the Taran Taran Local Board. He is also a member of the Council of the Aitchison College, and has done much to promote the cause of education in the district. In 1888 he was appointed an Honorary Magistrate of Amritsar. He has a seat in Viceregal Darbars.

## SARDAR JAWALA SINGH RASULPURIA.\*



Sardar Jawala Singh's ancestor Sujan Singh, a Jat Sikh, left the Manjha in 1760 as one of the Sukarchakia Misal, and acquired large estates in Ambala, and later on in the Jalandhar Doab, said to have yielded a revenue of twenty-four thousand rupees. His son Jodh Singh was driven out of the Moli Ikka in Ambala by the Kalsia Chief of the same name, and the family later on lost most of their possessions in Hushiarpur and Jalandhar. Their home was at Rasulpur, Taran Taran, in the Amritsar district. The Maharaja Ranjit Singh had granted Jodh Singh a jagir of the value of Rs. 10,000 under the usual conditions of military service; and this was reduced to Rs. 2,000 when the Lahore dominions were annexed in 1849. The jagir villages were Rurki, Maijara, and Sarai in the Garshankar Tahsil of the Hushiarpur district. The grant was resumed on the death of Jodh Singh in 1857; a portion in Mouza Rurki, yielding Rs. 360, being continued as a compassionate allowance to his heirs. His grandson Panjab Singh was a

\* Not in the original Edition.



distinguished soldier and received the title of Sardar in recognition of his gallant services, he having been under fire in thirty-two engagements throughout his military career. He served in the Maharaja's Gorcharas for fifteen years before the break-up of the Sikh power; and he was appointed Rasaldar in the 2nd Panjab Irregular Cavalry on the formation of that corps shortly after the annexation of the country; remaining until 1858, when he was transferred, as commandant, to the 5th Regiment of Mounted Police in Oudh. Lieutenant-General Sir Sam Browne wrote of him in 1860 as follows:—"No man has done more in the way of gallant acts than has Panjab Singh; and his judgment and discretion are equal to his gallantry." Sir Hope Grant, commanding a division of Cavalry in 1858, termed him "a brave, gallant soldier, and worthy of any reward." He was present at the Siege of Dehli, taking part in the final assault; and he was with Colonel Greathead's Column when the battles of Bilandshahar and Aligarh were fought. He was also engaged in many actions around Agra and Cawnpore, and he assisted at the Relief of Lucknow. He was rewarded with the Orders of Merit and of British India; and he received a grant of land in the Khiri district of Oudh, which then yielded Rs. 2,145 per annum, but is now far more valuable. In the Panjab he was given a property of seven hundred acres in Rakh Sukarchak, Tahsil Taran Taran, Amritsar, chargeable with an annual payment of Rs. 584.

Sardar Jawala Singh is the eldest son of Panjab Singh. He lives at Rasulpur; and he is a prominent man in this neighbourhood, being a Zaildar and a member of the District Committee. His eldest son, Sant Singh, is a Jamadar in the Central India Horse. His cousin Tahal Singh did good service in the Mutiny as a Jamadar in the Oudh Military Police. He is now in the enjoyment of a small pension. Another cousin, Nahal Singh, was a Rasaldar in the same

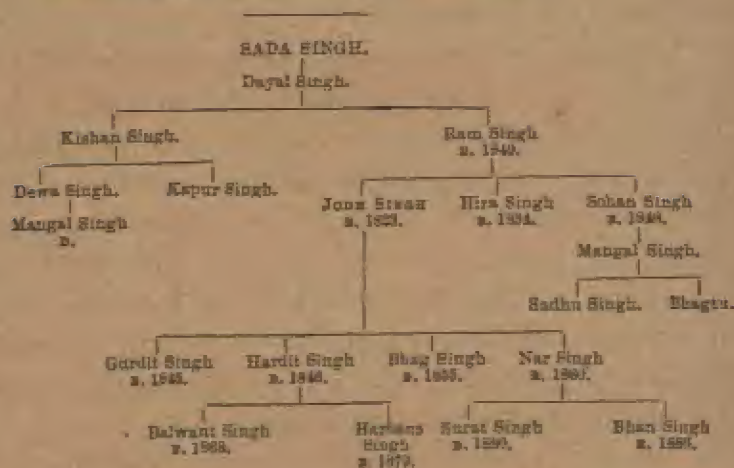
force. He has been granted a perpetual jagir of Rs. 50 in the Barawalipur Rakh, Taran Taran. One of his sons is Lambardar of Rasulpur.

Ala Singh, brother of Jawala Singh, was also a distinguished soldier. He died in 1870 while still serving in the Central India Horse, leaving two sons who followed their father's profession. The elder, Tej Singh, is a Rasaldar in the 11th Bengal Lancers. He accompanied the Boundary Commission under Sir Peter Lumsden, and rendered good service in connection with the Panjdeh incident, receiving the title of Rao Sahib. His uncle, Chanda Singh, was Wardi-Major of the same regiment. Teja Singh's brother Bhagat Singh is a Dafadar in the 11th Bengal Lancers.

Sardar Jawala Singh is owner by purchase of fourteen villages in the Khiri district, Oudh, assessed with a revenue of Rs. 5,500, in addition to the grant made to his father for Mutiny services. His possessions in the Amritsar district are comparatively small, being confined to about five hundred bigas in the family village of Rasulpur. The Rasulpuria Sardars are connected by marriage with most of the Jat families of note north of the Satlaj.



## SARDAR JODH SINGH, CHAPAWALA.



Dayal Singh, son of a poor cultivator of Dadubajra in the Sialkot district, entered the force of Tara Singh Kanhya as a trooper. He served his master in many expeditions, and received from him a jagir, worth Rs. 5,000, in the Pathankot district. On the death of Tara Singh great disputes regarding the succession arose between his sons, and in one of the fights which ensued Dayal Singh was killed and his jagir seized by the conqueror. His two sons, Kishan Singh and Ram Singh, were thus thrown upon the world as poor as their father when he commenced his career. They went into the Amritsar district to the village of Chapa, where their father had first settled on leaving his home, and where, on a rising ground, he had built a *chapa* or wooden fence round his house, which gave its name to the family and the village.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh took the brothers into his service, and gave them the command of five hundred sowars, under the orders of Prince Kharak Singh. Kishan Singh was killed in battle in 1827, and his brother, who had distinguished himself on the same occasion, received a grant of seven villages in the Amritsar district. When Chet Singh, the favourite of Kharak

Singh, was murdered, the Prince, who had always been fond of Ram Singh, gave him charge of his private seal, and jagirs in the Amritsar and Shahpur districts. Nao Nahal Singh, son of Kharak Singh, had no love for his father's friends, and threatened to imprison Ram Singh, which he would probably have done had he himself not been killed on the day of his father's incrimination. Under Sher Singh, Ram Singh received various military commands, and his personal jagir was raised to Rs. 15,000 per annum through the interest of Raja Dhian Singh, whom he had been accustomed to supply with private information regarding Maharaja Kharak Singh.

In 1847 Sardar Ram Singh was sent in command of some irregular horse to Bannu under Sardar Shamsher Singh Sindhanwalia, who was in command of the Sikh force sent by the Darbar to assist Edwardes in the settlement and pacification of the district. He was the chief instigator of the rebellion of the Sikh force at Dalipgarh in 1848. Fateh Khan Tawana, an enemy of Ram Singh, was in charge of the fort which the Sikhs besieged. It was gallantly defended, but the garrison had no water and were unable to hold out; Fateh Khan was killed and the fort captured. There was a Malik of one of the Tapas of Mudan, by name Mir Alam Khan, with whom Ram Singh had struck up a great friendship, and to whom he had advanced money to enable him to pay his arrears of revenue. Very much through the assistance of this man the fort was reduced, and it was left in his charge when Ram Singh with the Sikh force marched to join Raja Sher Singh.

Sardar Ram Singh was one of the bravest officers in the Sikh army. He fought with great gallantry at Ramnagar and Chilianwala, and was one of the few men of note killed in the battle of Gujrat. The whole jagirs of the family were confiscated for rebellion; but in 1857 Dewa Singh entered the service of Government as a Rasaldar;

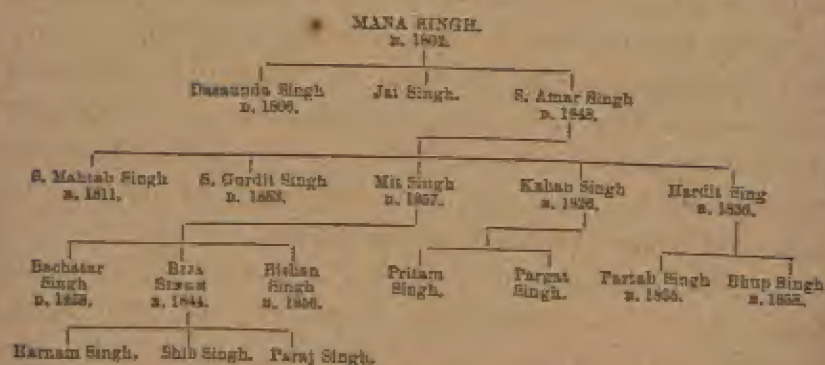


and his houses and those of Jodh Singh, his cousin, were released.

The family has now no local influence whatever. Jodh Singh receives a small pension of Rs. 60 per annum. Dewa Singh, Hira Singh and Sohan Singh are also in receipt of petty pensions. The landed property of the family has been partitioned off into small holdings of a few acres each, yielding barely sufficient to support the owners and their families.

Sardar Jodh Singh is a Viceregal Darbari.

## SARDAR BIJA SINGH, MAJITHIA.



Mana Singh was a follower of Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia, grandfather of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He fought with his lord against the Chatahs, and received a service jagir of Rs. 4,000. Under Sardar Mahan Singh he also served, and received the jagir of Jada, in the Jhilam district. When Ranjit Singh took Lahore in 1799, Mana Singh was an old man, but he was still active and fought in the campaign of 1802. He was killed in that year before the fort of Chaniot, which Ranjit Singh was endeavouring to capture from Jasa Singh Bhangi. Dasaunda Singh, the eldest son, had died in his father's life-time, and the whole jagir was resumed.

As soon as Amar Singh was old enough to bear arms, the Maharaja gave him the villages of Talanwala and Shekhopur, worth Rs. 1,500, and placed him in the Dera Khas, a regiment of irregular cavalry composed of the sons of the Sikh nobility. At the siege of Multan in 1818 the young Amar Singh displayed gallantry, and for his services in this campaign received the Ilaka of Majra. The next year, after the Kashmir Campaign, he obtained a grant of Jada, which had been held by his father Mana Singh. He was sent to reduce the Rokhri insurgents in the Shahpur district who had refused to



pay the revenue, and his expedition was quite successful. In 1834 he accompanied the army under Prince Nao Nahal Singh and Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa to Peshawar, when that province was formally annexed to the Sikh empire. He was employed in this campaign on outpost duty, and many a severe fight he had with the Afghans. At Shabkadar he was wounded by a musket-ball in a night attack made by the Afghans in force; but, although taken by surprise, he rallied his men and drove back the enemy.

At the battle of Jamrud, on the 30th April 1837, Sardar Amar Singh commanded the centre of the Sikh army, consisting of the Maharaja's Orderly troops, called the Jamadarwala Dera, and a thousand irregular cavalry, and distinguished himself by his conspicuous bravery; but the Afghans were very numerous, and the Sikh army was defeated with the loss of the General. The last expedition of Sardar Amar Singh was in 1843 in Kachi, where an insurrection had broken out, which he quickly suppressed. He did not serve in the Satlaj Campaign, and on its close, being a celebrated marksman, was chosen to instruct the young Maharaja Dalip Singh in shooting. The next year he left the Panjab on a pilgrimage to Hardwar, where he soon after died.

Mahtab Singh was born in the year 1811, and when quite a boy was placed in the irregular cavalry as Subadar. In 1831, just before the visit of the Maharaja to Rupar, he was made a Colonel and stationed at Amritsar in charge of two regiments. In 1834 he accompanied his father Amar Singh to Peshawar, and served with distinction throughout the campaign. In the same year his second brother, Gurdit Singh, entered the Maharaja's service. In 1839 Mahtab Singh served under Sardar Tej Singh in the Afridi expedition. He was made a General by Maharaja Sher Singh in 1841, and was stationed at Peshawar in command of four battalions and twenty-six guns, with an Akal regiment. His conduct to the

British force, which arrived at Peshawar early in 1842, on the second Kabul Expedition, was most unfriendly and hostile. After the assassination of Maharaja Sher Singh and Raja Dhian Singh, the General, who had returned to Lahore, gave his assistance to Raja Hira Singh against the Sindhanwalias; and after the restoration of peace his conduct was remembered with gratitude by Hira Singh, who bestowed upon him valuable presents. This did not, however, prevent Mahtab Singh from turning against the Minister when he became unpopular. He was privy to the conspiracy against the lives of Raja Hira Singh and Pandit Jala, and his were among the troops who pursued and put them to death. Concerned with him in this conspiracy was General Mewa Singh Majithia, whose real name was Sultan Singh, a distant relative of Mahtab Singh, and an implacable enemy of the Wazir.

The conduct of Mahtab Singh in thus plotting the destruction of a man for whom he professed devoted friendship does not seem amiable, but his motives were perfectly clear. He, with the army and the whole Sikh nation, was weary of the rule of the arrogant and debauched youth who owned all the Dogra vices, without their ability, their strength or their courage. The influence of Pandit Jala was still more odious, and as Hira Singh would not give him up it was necessary that they should fall together. There were, besides, private grounds of hatred. Sardar Amar Singh, father of Mahtab Singh, had in the Kachi expedition given some four or five thousand rupees to his soldiers, who had behaved admirably, expecting to be reimbursed by the Government; but Pandit Jala, knowing that when the treasury was full, there was more for him to plunder, refused to repay any portion of the sum; which so disgusted Amar Singh that he resigned the service. Again, Mahtab Singh had himself been tricked by Hira Singh in the affair of Baba Bir Singh, the great Sikh Guru. By soft words and presents and promises,



he had been induced to lead his troops against Sardar Atar Singh Sindhanwalia; by treachery, an action had been forced on, and at its close the holy Baba was found dying on the ground; and Mahtab Singh could not but feel himself in some measure the cause of his death. But, even if his own conscience was clear, he did not escape the reproaches of the Sikh army and people; and his brigade, with that of General Court, commanded by Gulab Singh Calcuttia, and the Dera Charyari commanded by Jawahir Mal Dat, was long known by the name of *Gurumar* (slayers of the Guru).

Mahtab Singh served throughout the Satlaj Campaign. He, like many others of the Sikhs, thought only of victory, and promised the treasury munshis to bring them silver penholders from the spoil of Dehli. After the Campaign he was made a Sardar by Raja Lal Singh, and both he and his brother Gurdit Singh, who had risen to the rank of General, were stationed at Peshawar; but in May 1847 he was transferred to Pind Dadan Khan. He was at this time no favourite in the Darbar, and there was but one man, Sardar Sher Singh Atariwala, who had a word to say in his favour; but the influence of Major Lawrence, the Resident, prevented his dismissal. When the rebellion broke out in 1848 in the north of the Panjab, Sardar Mahtab Singh was stationed at Rawalpindi with five hundred horse under Major Nicholson. His conduct was spoken of in the highest terms by that officer. His troops, with his brother Mit Singh, remained faithful to the Lahore Government throughout the war and fought on the side of the British at the battle of Gujrat. On the annexation of the Panjab, all the personal jagirs of the Sardar, amounting to Rs. 9,485, were released for two lives, and in 1862 one-half of this jagir was maintained to his lineal descendant in perpetuity.

In 1857 Sardar Mahtab Singh raised some horsemen for service in Hindustan, where they were sent under the com-

mand of his nephew Bachatar Singh. This force served with credit in Oudh, and was engaged several times with the mutineers. Bachatar Singh died of cholera at Cawnpore in 1858. His brother Bija Singh succeeded him as Jamadar.

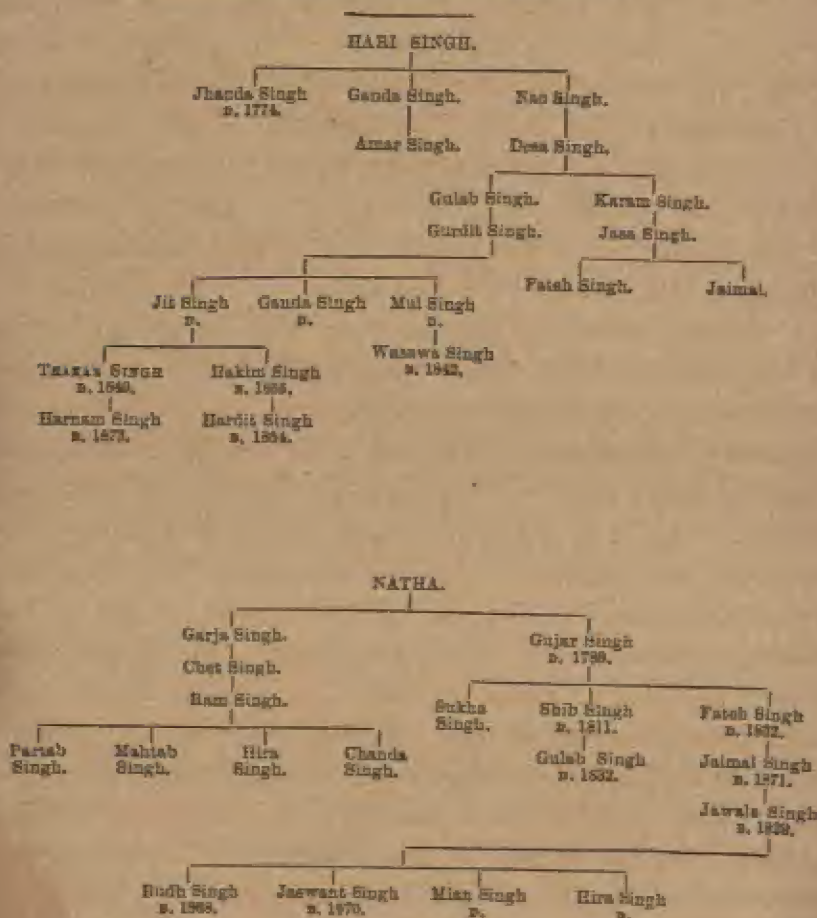
General Gurdit Singh died in 1853 without issue.

Mit Singh, who was a Colonel in the Sikh army in 1844, died in 1857. Kahan Singh succeeded his father in command of the contingent in 1843, and Hardit Singh was General of Maharaja Dalip Singh's juvenile force.

Sardar Mahtab Singh resided at Majitha up to the time of his death in 1865. He owned houses both at Lahore and Amritsar, at which latter place he was in 1862 created an Honorary Magistrate. He was a great sportsman, and spent a large part of his time at Kapurthala with the Ahluwalia Raja, with whom he was very intimate. His only daughter was married to Sardar Bakhshish Singh Sindhanwalia. She died childless in 1889. Mahtab Singh left two widows, who are still alive. Of Sardar Mit Singh's sons, Bija Singh leads a retired life, and Bishan Singh is a Rasaldar in the 16th Bengal Cavalry. Sardar Kahan Singh, who was an Honorary Magistrate, died in 1888 leaving two minor sons, one of whom is reading at the Aitchison College, Lahore. Sardar Hardit Singh died in 1883 leaving two sons, who manage their lands at Majitha and take no part in public affairs.



SARDAR THAKAR SINGH BHANGI.



Bhama Singh, an inhabitant of Kasur, may be considered the founder of the powerful Bhangi Confederacy. He was, however, little more than a robber, and his followers did not exceed three hundred. He was succeeded by his nephew Hari Singh, son of Bhup Singh, a zamindar of Patoh near Wadai, who was a man of great ability. He developed a band of robbers into an army and overran a large portion of the Panjab. It was his addiction to *bhang* (an intoxicating preparation of hemp) that gave the name 'Bhangi' to the

Misal. Some indeed say that this name originated with Bhama Singh, who was of so arrogant a disposition that he was called by the Sikhs *Bala-bash* (High head.) This, being a Turkoman title, annoyed Bhama Singh so much that he begged his comrades to change it for some other. Accordingly he was appointed, when in attendance at the Darbar Sahib of Amritsar, to pound *bhang* for the Khalsa, and was himself called Bhangi. The former account is the one commonly believed.

Hari Singh, whose head-quarters were at the village of Sohal in the Amritsar district, seized much of the neighbouring country, Sialkot, Karial, Mirowal. He ravaged Chaniot and Jhang Sial, and attacked Jamu, which he rendered tributary, and Multan without success. In 1762 he attacked the village of Khwaja Sayad ka Kot, two miles from Lahore, where Khwaja Abad, the Afghan Governor, had his arsenal; and carried away with him much booty, arms and ammunition. In 1763 he joined the Kanhyas and Ramgarhias in their attack on Kasur, and the next year was killed in a fight with Amar Singh Patiala; and Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh, two brothers who had served under him, succeeded to the command of one division of the Bhangi Misal. They were Dhilon Jats of Panjwar near Taran Taran, and under them the Confederacy became very powerful. Associated with them were many famous Chiefs: Bhag Singh Ahluwalia, Tara Singh, Sher Singh and Rai Singh Buriawala; Sudh Singh Dodia, Sahib Singh Sialkotia, Nadhan Singh Atu; and with them, too, though not inferior in rank, were the two Bhangi Chiefs Gujar Singh and Lahna Singh, whose history is given in this volume.

In 1766 Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh with a large force invaded Multan. Shuja Khan, the Governor, and, Mubarak Khan of Bahawalpur, gave them battle on the banks of the Satlaj. Neither side could claim the victory; but a



treaty was signed to the effect that Pak Patan should be the boundary between the Sikh and Afghan States. After this, Jhanda Singh returned to Amritsar, where he employed himself in completing the Bhangi fort which Hari Singh had begun, and the remains of which are still to be seen behind the Lunmandi Bazar. It was not long before Jhanda Singh broke the provisions of the treaty with the Multan Chief, and invaded his country in 1771. He besieged the fort unsuccessfully for a month and a half, till the near approach of an Afghan force under Jahan Khan compelled him to retire.

The next year, 1772, he was more successful. The successive Governors of Multan, Shuja Khan, Sharif Khan Sadozai and Sharif Beg Taklu, had quarrelled, and the latter invited Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh to his assistance. They were ready enough to accept the invitation, and, marching south with a large force, defeated Shuja Khan and his allies the Daudputras of Bahawalpur, and seized Multan for themselves. Sharif Beg, thus fatally deceived, took refuge at Talamba, and then at Khairpur Tanwain, where he soon after died.

Jhanda Singh then marched northwards, leaving in charge of Multan Diwan Singh Chachowalia with a strong garrison. He first went to Ramnagar, where he recovered the *Zam-Zam* or Bhangi gun\* from the Chatahs, and thence to Jamu, where his ally and tributary, Raja Ranjit Deo, was defending himself

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\* The history of this gun is somewhat remarkable. It was cast at Lahore, with another gun of the same size, in 1701 by Shah Nazir, under the directions of Shah Wali Khan, Prime Minister of Ahmad Shah. The date of its founding (A. H. 1174) may be derived from the last of the twenty Persian verses engraved upon it, each letter having a numerical value.

Paikari Aahdkae Atishbar. بیکری اژدهائی آتشبار

The material of which the guns were made was a mixture of copper and brass obtained by the *joria* (a tribute levied by Mahomedans from the infidels), a metal vessel being taken from each house in Lahore. Ahmad Shah, on his returning to Kabul after his victory over the Afghans at Panipat in 1701, left the *Zam-Zam* gun, the carriage of which was not ready at Lahore in the charge of Khwaja Abad, whom he had appointed Governor. The other gun he took with him, and it was lost in the passage of the Chanab. The *Zam-Zam* had a longer life. Hari Singh Bhangi is said to have captured it when he plundered Khwaja Abad's arsenal, and to have taken it to Amritsar. But this is not correct; for it is certain that during the whole governorship

against his son Brij Raj Deo and the Kanhya and Sukarchakia Chiefs. For some time the rival forces engaged with varying success, till Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia was accidentally killed and the Bhangis seemed about to gain the victory. This the Kanhyas averted by the assassination of Jhanda Singh, causing him to be shot as he was riding through the camp. This was in 1774.

Ganda Singh succeeded to the command of the Misal; and, finding that no success could now be gained at Jamu, he retired to Amritsar, where he engaged himself in enlarging and strengthening the Bhangi quarter and in plotting against the Kanhyas, who had caused his brother's death. An opportunity for showing his enmity almost immediately occurred. Jhanda Singh had bestowed Pathankot on one of his Misaldars, Nand Singh, otherwise known as Mansa Singh. This man died about the same time as his Chief, and his widow gave her daughter and the jagir of Pathankot to Tara Singh,

of Khwaja Abad, 1761-1762, the gun was lying unmounted in the Shah Burj at Lahore. In 1764, when Laha Singh and Gajar Singh Bhangi captured Lahore, they obtained possession of it. Two days later, Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia came to congratulate the Bhangis, and hinted that he should have some share of the spoil. The Bhangis, who knew that Charat Singh had come, not for congratulation, but only as a vulture who has scented a carcass, thought to outwit him, and, unwilling to make so powerful a Chief their enemy, offered him, with the greatest politeness, the Zam-Zam gun, the best part they asserted of the spoil, hoping and believing that he would be unable to carry it away. But Charat Singh, seeing he could get nothing more, called his men together and, with great labour, carried it off to his camp, and then to his fort at Gujranwala. Here it was captured by Ahmad Khan Chatah, who took it to his new fort of Ahmadnagar, much to the disgust of his brother Pir Mahomed, who thought he had also a claim to it, and the two quarrelled about its possession; and in the fight which ensued a son of Pir Mahomed and two sons of Ahmad Khan were slain. Pir Mahomed at length called in Gujar Singh Bhangi to his assistance, who entrapped Ahmad Khan, and kept him a day and a night without water till he promised to give up the gun, which Gujar Singh, cheating his ally, carried to Gujrat and kept himself. Here it remained two years, till, in an evil hour, the Bhangis took it with them on an expedition against Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia. The Bhangis were worsted, and the gun, too heavy to remove quickly, fell again into the hands of the Sukarchakia Chief. In 1772 the Chatahs, who were always fighting with Charat Singh, recovered the gun and placed it in the fort of Mauchar, and a short time afterwards removed it to Rasalnagar, now Ramnagar. Here the next year it was captured by Sardar Jhanda Singh Bhangi on his return from Multan, and by him sent to Amritsar, where it remained in the Bhangi fort till 1802, when Ranjit Singh, who had the greatest desire to possess it, drove the Bhangis out of Amritsar and seized it. During the reign of Ranjit Singh the gun was taken, with great pomp, on five different campaigns, viz., Daska, Kasur, Sujanpur, Wazirabad and Multan. At the siege of the last-named place, in 1818, it was seriously injured, and, being considered unfit for further service, it was brought to Lahore and placed at the Delhi gate of the city, where it remained till 1860, when it was placed in front of the Lahore Museum, where it now stands.



a near relation of Hakikat Singh Kanhya. Ganda Singh was exceedingly indignant at this, and insisted that Tara Singh should give up the jagir, but the Kanhyas refused; and Ganda Singh, collecting a large force, taking with him the Bhangi gun and, with many of the Ramgarhia Chiefs as allies, marched against Pathankot. Hakikat Singh, Tara Singh and Gurbakhsh Singh Kanhya and Amar Singh Bhaga marched to Dinanagar to oppose his progress, and here an indecisive engagement took place; but while encamped at Dinanagar, Ganda Singh fell ill and died after ten days. Charat Singh, a nephew, was selected by the troops to succeed him; but in the very first fight with the Kanhyas, Charat Singh was killed, and the Bhangi force, left without a leader, returned to Amritsar.

Desu Singh now became head of the Confederacy, and one Gujar Singh acted as his Minister. But the days of the great Bhangi Misal were numbered, and the power and intellect of a boy were unable to control the many unruly Chiefs who had been proud to fight under Hari Singh and Jhanda Singh. Bhag Singh Ahluwalia first declared himself independent; then Jhang ceased to pay tribute; and in 1779 Multan was lost.

It will be remembered that Sardar Jhanda Singh had left Diwan Singh in charge of Multan. He held his own for some years successfully; and in 1777 repulsed, though only with great loss, an attack of the Bahawalpur Chief, and Muzafar Khan, son of Shuja Khan. But in 1779 Timur Shah, son of Ahmad Shah, marched against Multan with a large army, and Diwan Singh, having held out for more than a month, was compelled to capitulate, and was allowed to retire unmolested. Desu Singh had also a great enemy in the person of Sardar Mahan Singh, head of the Sukarchakia Misal, which was now becoming very powerful; and in 1782, after holding the Chiefship eight years, he was killed in action, but

whether before Chaniot, which he had marched to reduce, or in a skirmish with Mahan Singh, is uncertain. He was succeeded by his son Gulab Singh ; and of this Chief there is little to record. He was a debauched, weak man, and had not energy sufficient to keep together the possessions which his father had left him. Year by year these diminished, till at last the town of Amritsar and some villages in the Manjha alone remained.

In 1800 a cabal was formed against Ranjit Singh, who had captured Lahore in July of the preceding year, and whose successes were beginning to fill all the Panjab Chiefs with alarm. Chief in the cabal were Sardars Jasa Singh Ramgarhia, Sahib Singh and Gulab Singh Bhangi and Nizamudin Khan of Kasur ; and it was proposed to invite Ranjit Singh to a conference at Bhasin and there assassinate him. But the young Chief was too wily to attend without a force large enough to secure his safety, and after two months passed in festivities he returned to Lahore. But, although Ranjit Singh escaped with his life, Gulab Singh was less fortunate. He had never missed an opportunity for drinking hard ; and on this occasion, when every night ended in a debauch, he drank so deep that he killed himself. Some have asserted that he was poisoned ; but there is no shadow of foundation for the story ; and he was so incapable a man that no one could possibly think it worth his while to destroy him. Gulab Singh left one son, Gurdit Singh, a boy ten years of age, married to the daughters of Sardars Sahib Singh Bhangi son of Gujar Singh, and Fateh Singh Kanhya. But no powerful alliances were of use against Ranjit Singh, who was determined to gain possession of Amritsar. He in 1802, with the intention of picking a quarrel with the Bhangis, sent to demand from Gurdit Singh the famous Zam-Zam gun. But the glory and prestige of the Confederacy was derived in great part from the possession of this ; and although her



chief advisers urged Sukhan, the mother of Gurdit Singh, to give it up, she refused to part with it and prepared to fight. But such preparations were worse than useless. Ranjit Singh with Fateh Singh Ahluwalia marched to Amritsar, attacked the Bhangi fort, and in five hours reduced it. Sukhan and her son took refuge with Sardar Jodh Singh Ramgarhia, and Ranjit Singh seized all the Bhangi possessions. Little more is known of Gurdit Singh. He died at his ancestral village of Panjwar in the Taran Taran Pargana of the Amritsar district, where his descendants are still living as simple peasants.

Notice must now be taken of two other powerful Chiefs of the Bhangi Misal, Sardars Lahna Singh and Gujar Singh, who, though joining Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh in some of their expeditions, have a history for the most part distinct. Lahna Singh's grandfather was a zamindar of the Kailon Jat caste, who in a time of scarcity left his native village of Sadawala in the Amritsar district for Mastapur near Kartarpur in the Jalandhar Doab. Here he was adopted by a man who joined the trades of carpentering and collecting taxes, and here his son Dargaha was born. Lahna Singh, the son of Dargaha, was a high spirited boy; and having been on one occasion beaten by his father for allowing cattle to stray into his field ran away from home, and after wandering about for some time at length reached the village of Roranwala, one mile from Atari, where Gurbakhsh Singh Bhangi lived. This man was one of the best fighters under Sardar Hari Singh. He owned about forty villages, and used to scour the country with a band of horsemen and collect plunder from far and near. He took a fancy to young Lahna Singh and put him into his troop, and later, having no son of his own, adopted him. Gurbakhsh Singh died in 1763; and dissensions straightway arose between Lahna Singh, the adopted son, and Gujar Singh, the son of Gurbakhsh Singh's daughter, each claiming

the property. Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh Bhangi came to Waniki to try and settle the dispute ; but Gujar Singh would not listen to terms, and set out with his followers for Roranwala. Lahna Singh pursued and came up with him, and a fight was the result, in which a few men were killed on either side. At length an arrangement was made, by which Lahna Singh and Gujar Singh divided the estate. The former kept Roranwala, and the latter founded a new village between Bahrwal and Rani, which he called Rangarh, in remembrance of his fight with Lahna Singh, of whom he now became the fast friend.

The two Sardars then planned the capture of Lahore, which Kabuli Mal held in the interest of Ahmad Shah. The Governor was a timid and, at the same time, a tyrannical man ; and as the Sikh horse, becoming every day more bold, plundered the country up to the very walls of the city, he grew alarmed for his safety, and when he obtained secret intelligence of the Bhangi plot he fled from Lahore leaving it in charge of his nephew Amir Singh. He took the road to Jamu ; but some of the refugees, who had left Lahore through his tyranny, handled him so roughly that he would probably have been killed had not some troops sent by Raja Ranjit Deo as his escort rescued him. The Raja sent him to Rawalpindi, where the rear-guard of Ahmad Shah's army had halted ; and here he died shortly afterwards.

One dark night Lahna Singh and Gujar Singh with two hundred men determined to surprise Lahore. They found all the gates closed ; but one Dayal Singh showed them a drain by which it was possible to enter with some squeezing. Gujar Singh led the way, Lahna Singh followed and the other Sikhs. The fort was taken by surprise ; Amir Singh the Deputy Governor, was captured at a nautch and put in irons, and before morning the whole city was in possession of the confederates. Early the next day Sobha Singh Kanhya,



nephew of Jai Singh, arrived. He had, since the last Afghan invasion, been in hiding at his native village of Kanah. He was one of the confederates and, although too late to aid in the capture, was allowed a share of the prize. Then came the other Bhangi and Kanhya Sardars; and lastly Charat Singh Sukarchakia, who was very hard to please, and would not go away till the Bhangis had given him the Zam-Zam gun, which he carried to Gujranwala. The three Sardars then divided Lahore among them; Lahna Singh taking the citadel, with the Masti, Khizri, Kashmiri and Roshani gates. Gujar Singh built for himself a fort without the walls, which he called Kila Gujar Singh, and in 1765 marched northwards to conquer new territory.

Lahna Singh and Sobha Singh remained in Lahore in peace till Ahmad Shah made his final descent upon the Panjab in 1767, when they retired to Panjwar. But the great Durani leader felt age and infirmity creeping upon him; and having no man of genius like Adina Beg Khan to leave in charge of the province, he resolved to conciliate the Sikh Chiefs. To Lahna Singh he sent a present of fruit; but he returned it, saying that grain was the food for peasants like him, not fruit, which was a luxury for kings. Pleased with this humble reply, Ahmad Shah confirmed Lahna Singh in his possession of Lahore and returned to Kabul, where he died in 1773. For twenty years after this the Lahore Sardars ruled in tolerable quiet till 1797, when Shah Zaman, who had succeeded to the throne of Kabul, invaded the Panjab; and Lahna Singh again retired from Lahore, and returned after the departure of the Shah, but died the same year. Sobha Singh died about the same time, and was succeeded by his son Mohar Singh, while Chat Singh succeeded Lahna Singh.

Shah Zaman again appeared in 1798, but only remained a few months in Lahore, as news from Persia rendered his return necessary. Sardar Ranjit Singh Sukarchakia obtained

from the Shah a grant of the city in return for services which he rendered, the principal of which was the raising and forwarding to the Shah eight guns which had sunk in the river Ravi. But the gift was only nominal, and Ranjit Singh was left to gain possession for himself. This was not difficult. The only man of any energy among the joint rulers of Lahore was Sahib Singh, son of Gujar Singh, and he was absent at Gujrat. Chet Singh was an imbecile, and Mohar Singh possessed neither character nor influence. Their rule was hated by the people, and their own adherents, Bhai Gurbakhsh Singh, Hakim Rai and Mian Ashak Mahomed, were in favour of Ranjit Singh, and wrote him word that he could easily make himself master of the place. Ranjit Singh with a large force entered Anarkali, and Chet Singh, who thought of marching to oppose him, was dissuaded from so doing by his agent Mohkam Din, Chaudhri of Kotnao, who was in charge of the Lohari gate, which he opened to the enemy. Ranjit Singh took possession without difficulty, and Chet Singh and Mohar Singh fled.

Sometime later Ranjit Singh granted to Chet Singh a jagir of Rs. 60,000 in Waniki, which he held till his death in 1815. He left no son by any of his eight wives; but four months after his death Bibi Hukam Kaur gave birth to a son named Atar Singh, in favour of whom Ranjit Singh released an estate of Rs. 6,000 at Waniki. This was afterwards much reduced and exchanged for Ladi, which again, in 1819, was exchanged for Chak Didu, part of Lahna Singh's old estate. On annexation this village was released to Atar Singh and his mother for their lives.

Sardar Gujar Singh's expedition to conquer the country to the north of Lahore was successful enough, and he soon became a far more powerful Chief than Lahna Singh or Sobha Singh. He first attacked Gujrat, which was then held by Sultan Mukarab, a Ghakar Chief, and, defeating him



in an engagement just beyond the walls, took possession of both the city and the neighbouring country. Gujrat he now made his head-quarters, and the next year, 1766, marched to Jamu, which he overran and held tributary with Jhanda Singh Bhangi; and then successively reduced Punch, Islamgarh and Dewa Botala. In 1767 Ahmad Shah made his last invasion of India, driving before him all the new Sikh Chiefs; for in those days the dread of an Afghan army was such that there was no thought of opposing it in the open field; and leaving behind him the proverb, *Khada pida lada rahnda Ahmad Shahda*; meaning that Ahmad Shah left nothing that men could call their own but what they had actually in their mouths.

Among those who fled was Gujar Singh. He went to Lahore, and thence, as Ahmad Shah advanced, to Firozpur; and when the Durani Chief had finally turned his back on the Panjab, he recovered his share of the city of Lahore and left it in charge of Takht Singh, a near relation. He then went to Amritsar; and for the defence of the holy city laid the foundations of fort Gujar Singh, where now stands the newer fort of Govindgarh. Charat Singh Sukarchakia also built a fort to the north of the Darbar Sahib (the Golden Temple), while that of Jassa Singh Ramgarhia lay to the east, and that of the Bhangis to the south. Then at his village of Rangarh he married his eldest son to the daughter of Bhag Singh Ahluwalia; and as soon as the festivities were over marched with his whole force to Gujrat, recovering all his old conquests with but little trouble. Then, in conjunction with Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia, he besieged the famous fort of Rhotas held by the Ghakars. After a siege of several months it was reduced, and the whole of the neighbouring country as far as Rawalpindi, with its splendid fighting tribes, Janjoahs, Ghakars, Awans, submitted to the allies. He then married his second son Sahib Singh to a

daughter of Sardar Charat Singh, and some time later to a daughter of Hamir Singh of Jind.

Gujar Singh had divided his territories between his two eldest sons Sukha Singh and Sahib Singh. These quarrelled; and the younger, at the instigation of Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia, who was always seeking to benefit by the mistakes of others, attacked his brother, who was killed during the action. Gujar Singh was very indignant when he heard of this, and determined to dispossess Sahib Singh of all the country under his charge. He marched upon Gujrat, and was admitted without question; and Sahib Singh, now in open revolt, shut himself up in Islamgarh. But Gujar Singh did not wish to proceed to extremities and forgave his son the moment he showed a disposition to sue for pardon, and, confirming him in his old possessions, made over those which had been held by Sukha Singh to his youngest son Fateh Singh. But another cause of disunion soon arose. Sardar Mahan Singh was besieging Rasalnagar, the capital of his enemies the Chatahs, and a principal officer, escaping from the town, took refuge in Sardar Gujar Singh's camp. Mahan Singh demanded his surrender, which was refused. Sahib Singh, however, willing to oblige his brother-in-law, made the refugee over to him, and he was put to death. Gujar Singh was indignant at this disobedience of his son; he cursed him, and prayed that, as he had insulted and dishonoured his father, so his son might insult and dishonour him. This conduct of Sahib Singh so preyed upon the old Sardar's mind that he fell ill; and, leaving all his possessions to his youngest son Fateh Singh, he retired to Lahore, where he died in 1788. His tomb is situated near the Saman Burj.

However much Gujar Singh may have wished to exclude his eldest son from the succession, the Sardars of the Khalsa would not admit his right to do so; and Sahib Singh took



possession of his father's estates without active opposition from Fateh Singh, who went to live with Mahan Singh at Gujranwala. For some time there was peace between the brothers-in-law Mahan Singh and Sahib Singh; but in 1789 they openly quarrelled, and for two years remained in constant hostility. At length, in 1791, Mahan Singh shut up Sahib Singh in the fort of Sodhra and reduced him to great straits. The Bhangi Chief called to his assistance Lahna Singh of Lahore and Karam Singh Dhilon. The former would not move; but Karam Singh came with a large force to raise the siege, and an engagement took place between him and Mahan Singh. The Sukarchakia Chief was at this time very ill, and during the fight fainted away on his elephant; the mahant of which turned and carried his master from the field. His forces, missing their leader, fled: the siege was raised, and Mahan Singh retired to Gujranwala, where he died three days afterwards; the desertion of his old friend Jodh Singh Wazirabadia hastening his death. In 1797 Shah Zaman invaded the Panjab, and Sahib Singh retired to the hills. The Shah only remained a few days in Lahore and then returned to Afghanistan. He left behind him at Pind Dadan Khan an officer, known as the Shahanchi, with seven thousand Afghan troops who, on Sahib Singh's return to Gujrat, marched against him with allies from among the Mahomedan tribes of the Jhilm district. Sahib Singh, with Nahal Singh and Wazir Singh Atariwala, Jodh Singh Wazirabadia, and Karam Singh Dhilon, gave him battle and completely defeated him. This was in 1798, and was the first time that the Sikhs had fairly beaten the Afghans in the open field. A few months after this defeat of the Shahanchi, Shah Zaman again invaded the Panjab; but his stay was short, and he retired, making Ranjit Singh a grant of Lahore, which he captured, as has been already related. Fateh Singh Bhangi now joined Ranjit Singh, who promised to give him

half of his brother's possessions, and with this assistance he seized Fatahgarh, now called Kot Bari Khan, and Sodhra. When Sahib Singh heard of the fall of Lahore, he moved with a large force against Ranjit Singh, the Ramgarhia and Kasur troops marching from the east and south to the same point; but the meeting at Bhasin passed off peaceably. Hostilities commenced later in the year, and continued for some time, Fateh Singh becoming reconciled to his brother. But this friendship did not last long; for on Fateh Singh favouring Mai Sahib Kaur, wife of Sahib Singh, who, disgusted at her husband's third marriage, held the fort of Jalalpur against him, his property and newly granted estates were all seized. Fateh Singh went back to Ranjit Singh who, remembering that he had deserted him in the middle of the campaign, would do nothing for him, and after remaining in Lahore in great poverty for a year he was compelled to return to his brother at Gujrat, who gave him Daulatnagar and other estates.

Sahib Singh now began to lose the energy which had so much distinguished him, and gave himself up to drunkenness and debauchery. He quarrelled with Sardar Nahal Singh Atariwala, and with Mohkam Chand his Diwan, afterwards so celebrated, who both went over to Ranjit Singh. In 1806 he accompanied the Lahore Chief on the Patiala Campaign, and at its close returned to Gujrat. In 1810 Ranjit Singh determined to take possession of Sahib Singh's country, and sent for that purpose Hukam Singh Atariwala and Sewa Singh. Sahib Singh, seeing resistance hopeless, fled from Gujrat with fifty horsemen and took refuge in the fort of Dewa Botala, and his whole jagirs were seized, an estate of Rs. 25,000 being granted to Gulab Singh who had intrigued against his father. In 1810, when the Maharaja was engaged in the siege of Multan, Mai Lachmi, mother of Sahib Singh, proceeded thither, and interceded for her son with such effect that the



Ilaka of Bajwant, worth a lakh of rupees, was released in his favour. This he held till his death, which took place the next year, when Ranjit Singh took two of his widows, Dya Kaur and Ratan Kaur, into his Zanana, marrying them by *chadar dalna*. Dya Kaur, daughter of Diwan Singh Wirk, was the reputed mother of Pashora Singh and Kashmira Singh; Ratan Kaur the reputed mother of Multana Singh. Sardar Fateh Singh Gujratia, on the death of his brother and the resumption of the jagir, went to Kapurthala, where he remained in the service of the Ahluwalia Chief for two years till, on the death of his mother Mai Lachmi, he received a grant of Rangarh and some other villages in the Amritsar district, and entered the service of Sardar Sham Singh Atariwala in whose contingent he served for many years. He was killed in Bannu at the siege of the fort of Malik Dilasa Khan. About the same time, in 1832, Gulab Singh died and his jagirs were all resumed.

Jaimal Singh, only son of Fateh Singh, was for some time in Sardar Sham Singh's force, and served on the frontier and at Peshawar. He, however, quarrelled with his Chief, and this brought on Jaimal Singh more troubles than there is space to record here. Through the enmity of Sham Singh his jagir was resumed, and when the British occupied the country he was in great poverty. He resided at Rangarh, without pension or estate, the representative of the great Bhangi house, which possessed more power and ruled over a larger territory than any other family between the Satlaj and the Indus. He died in 1871 leaving a son, Jawala Singh, who resides at Rangarh near Atari in Amritsar. His son Budh Singh is Lambardar of the village. The family enjoy no pension or jagir, but possess over four hundred ghumaos of land in proprietary right.

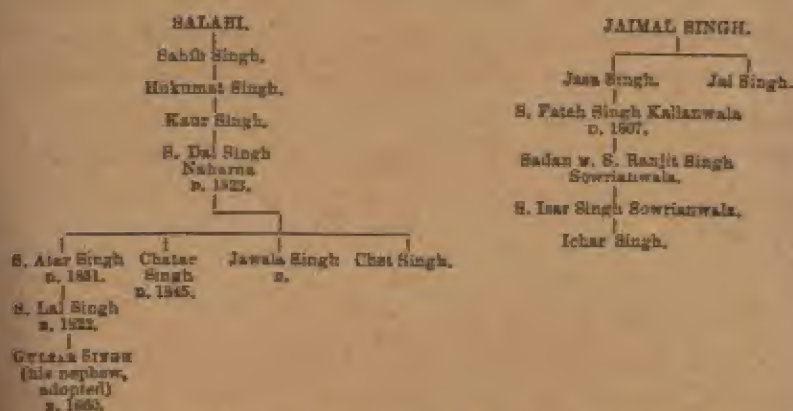
Thakar Singh, as lineal descendant of Sardar Gurdit Singh, may be considered head of the family. He is a

Zaildar at Panjwar, and is known as a respectable and energetic rural notable, having a seat in Provincial Darbars. He and his brother Hukam Singh enjoy a mafi yielding Rs. 190 per annum and own about two thousand bigas of land. The widow of their uncle Mul Singh has a pension of Rs. 180 per annum.

No trace is left of Atar Singh or of his descendants in the Amritsar district.



## SARDAR GULZAR SINGH KALIANWALA.



Sardar Lal Singh does not belong to the old Kalianwala stock, nor is he related to the great Sardar Fateh Singh, through whom the present family attained wealth and honours. The story of Fateh Singh's family must be briefly told. Jaimal Singh, grandfather of Sardar Fateh Singh, was a Sindhu Jat, and the first of his family to adopt the Sikh faith. He was a resident of Kali Lakhu, near Amritsar. He was a follower of the Sukarchakia Chiefs, Charat Singh and Mahan Singh, and with them was engaged in constant quarrels with the Chatah tribe inhabiting the northern part of the Gujarawanwala district; and in one skirmish with some Chatah marauders both his sons, Jai Singh and Jasa Singh, were slain. Fateh Singh entered the service of Ranjit Singh about 1798, and very rapidly rose in the favour of his master. He was a brave and skilful soldier and proved himself as such in almost every campaign undertaken by the Maharaja till 1807. He fought against Ghulam Mahomed Khan Chatah, against Jodh Singh of Wazirabad and Nadhan Singh Atu. He was with the Maharaja when he captured the city of Lahore, and when he took Amritsar from the Bhangis and the Ramgarhias with the aid of the Ahluwalia and Kanhya Sardars. He fought in

the Jhang and the Pindi Bhatian Campaigns; and it was in a great measure owing to his advice that Ranjit Singh did not espouse the cause of Rai Jaswant Rao Holkar against the British Government in 1805. Much assisted by Fateh Singh's good offices, peace was concluded between the English and Holkar, who gave to the Sardar many valuable gifts in recognition of his services. Fateh Singh distinguished himself at the capture of Chaniot from Jassa Singh Bhangî, and when Jhang was taken in 1806 from Ahmad Khan Sial the district was leased to Fateh Singh for Rs. 60,000 per annum. Ahmad Khan, however, soon after made a compromise with Fateh Singh, who returned to Lahore.

Towards the close of 1806 the Sardar was sent against Kasur, where Kutbudin Khan was giving trouble. The Pathan Chief held out bravely, but was glad to buy off the Sikh by the payment of a lakh of rupees. At the beginning of 1807, a Sikh army, under Ranjit Singh in person, again marched against Kasur, and after a long fight reduced it. Fateh Singh promised to Kutbudin the quiet possession of his estate at Mamdot if he would give up the Kasur fort; and although Ranjit Singh did not approve of the promise, yet he considered himself bound to confirm it.

Beneath the banner of Fateh Singh, many of the chief Sikh barons were proud to fight. Among others was Amir Singh Sindhanwalia, Dal Singh Naharna, Dhana Singh Malwai, Fateh Singh Matu and Utam Singh Chachi.

In 1807 Ranjit Singh, returning from Patiala, besieged the fort of Naraingarh held by Sardar Kishan Singh. For fifteen days it held out; and the Maharaja became very impatient at the delay, and told Fateh Singh, who was in immediate command, that he was fonder of remaining by him (the Maharaja) than of leading the troops in the field. Fateh Singh, piqued at this, assaulted the fort; but was repulsed and mortally wounded. Ranjit Singh came to visit



him in his tent, and Fateh Singh is said to have advised the Maharaja never to raise another Jat to the highest office in the State. Whether such advice was ever given is doubtful, but the Maharaja appeared to act upon some such principle ; for while his bravest officers and Generals were Jat Sikhs, in the Council he rather gave his confidence to Brahmans, Rajputs, and even Mahomedans.

Fateh Singh left no son, and Ranjit Singh might have resumed all his jagirs ; but, feeling some remorse for the Sardar's death, he sent Mit Singh Padhanai, on his arrival at Amritsar, with a valuable khilat to Mai Sewan, the widow ; and bid him tell her that any one whom she should nominate as her husband's heir and successor would be recognized. There were several Chiefs well loved by Fateh Singh, and none more so than Dhana Singh Malwai and Dal Singh Naharna. The latter was his *potrela* (godson) and a great favourite. But for the succession to Fateh Singh's estates, Dal Singh is said neither to have trusted to fortune nor to favour. On the night of Mit Singh's arrival at Kali, Dal Singh paid him a private visit, and for Rs. 5,000 Mit Singh told Mai Sewan that, although she might nominate whom she pleased, Ranjit Singh would be only pleased with Dal Singh ; and he was accordingly selected.

Notwithstanding the generosity of Ranjit Singh on this occasion, there were not wanting many who said that the jagirs had been given to Dal Singh as a thank-offering for the death of Fateh Singh ; that Ranjit Singh had long feared the Chief, and that he dared him to assault Naraingarh, through an impracticable breach, in the hope of his death. On one occasion, at Wazirabad, Ranjit Singh told Fateh Singh to draw his forces on one side that he might see how numerous they were. When the order was given the whole army went over to the great Kalianwala Chief, and Ranjit Singh, to his rage and chagrin, found himself almost deserted.

He never forgot the incident, or forgave the Chief who had too much influence with the army.

Dal Singh Naharna's family originally resided at Karial, in Shekhopura, and is of the *naharna* or barber (or, more properly, nail-cutter) caste. It is stated that an ancestor, a Wirk Jat, fell in love and eloped with one Rami, the daughter of Duni Chand of the Jandi Naharna tribe, and that the name Naharna has been ever since attached to the family. But this is a fiction, and has only been invented since the family rose to importance. Dal Singh was not of Jat descent. Sahib Singh Naharna was the associate of Bhagwan Singh, and became known as a bold and successful robber. When Charat Singh became powerful, both Sahib Singh and Bhagwan Singh joined him; and when he had conquered the country about Pind Dadan Khan, Bhagwan Singh claimed a third share. This, Charat Singh did not fancy giving, and believing that he could trust Sahib Singh he resolved to get rid of his troublesome ally. Soon after, the three men went on a hunting expedition, and a wild boar happening to run past, Charat Singh cried aloud "Don't let the beast escape." Sahib Singh, who well understood the meaning of these words shot Bhagwan Singh dead. For this service he was rewarded with a jagir. Both his son, Hukumat Singh, and his grandson, Kaur Singh, were in the service of the Sukarchakia Chief, but they were not men of any note.

Sardar Dal Singh was a bold and able man, and was a great favourite with Sardar Fateh Singh Kalianwala, under whose orders he used to fight. At the time of Fateh Singh's death, Dal Singh had a jagir of about Rs. 68,000; but when the Kalianwala jagirs, with the exception of Rs. 70,000 settled on Mai Sewan and the children of Fateh Singh's daughter, were made over to him, his estates were worth about Rs. 3,50,000. Most of the Sardars who had fought under Fateh Singh now were led by Dal Singh; and the



barber showed himself as brave in battle as the best of the Jat aristocracy. He served with honour in the Kasur, Multan, Kashmir, and Dera Ismail Khan campaigns.

In 1814 he was sent, with Ram Dayal, grandson of Diwan Mohkam Chand, in command of a detachment of ten thousand men, to force their way into Kashmir by way of Nandan Sar, while Ranjit Singh himself proceeded by way of Punch. This detachment was surrounded and outnumbered, and it was only on account of the friendship entertained for Diwan Mohkam Chand by Azim Khan that he was allowed to return unmolested. In the spring of 1815, again in company with Ram Dayal, he ravaged the Multan and Bahawalpur territories, exacting fines and contributions from every town; and later in the year he was sent against the Bhimbar and Rajauri Chiefs. He reduced them to submission, and burnt a large portion of the city of Rajaur. He died in 1823, according to his family, of cholera; but the commonly received story is that he took poison after having been severely rebuked by the Maharaja for the inefficient state of his contingent. He was succeeded in his jagir by his eldest son Atar Singh.

In 1834 Atar Singh was sent to Peshawar under the command of Prince Nao Nahal Singh. While there, Diwan Hakim Rai, who was the chamberlain of the Prince and a great favourite, induced some of the Sardars, who had been accustomed to fight under the command of Atar Singh, to go over to him with their troops. On this Atar Singh left the army without leave, and came to Lahore to complain to the Maharaja. He was not well received, and was ordered to rejoin the army, then in Bannu, without delay. Atar Singh refused; and the Maharaja confiscated all his jagirs, with the exception of the family estate of Kala, worth Rs. 3,500, and Hamidpur, Rs. 750. Thus it remained till the death of Ranjit Singh. His successor, Kharak Singh, restored Rs. 12,750, free of service; and Maharaja Sher Singh, on

the return of Atar Singh from the Ganges, where he had conveyed the ashes of Maharaja Kharak Singh, and Prince Nao Nahal Singh, gave him, at Pindi Gheb and Mirowal, jagirs valued at Rs. 1,02,000; this was subject to the service of two hundred horse, and included a grant of Rs. 2,000 to his son Lal Singh. Atar Singh was made Adalati (Chief Justice) of Lahore and the surrounding districts, and received command of the Pindiwala irregular cavalry, which had been first raised by Milka Singh Pindiwala. No change took place in his jagir till Jawahir Singh became Wazir, when Atar Singh represented that Pindi Gheb, though nominally worth Rs. 65,000, only yielded Rs. 50,000, and obtained in exchange the Ilakas of Chunian, Dhundianwali and Khudian, worth Rs. 60,000.

After the murder of Prince Pashora Singh by Jawahir Singh's orders, the army, enraged at the conduct of the Wazir, determined upon his death, and threw off their allegiance to the Lahore Government. Sardar Atar Singh was, on the 19th September, sent by the Rani Jindan, with Diwan Dina Nath and Fakir Nurudin, to the camp at Mian Mir to induce the mutinous troops to return to their duty. No attention was, however, paid to their advice; the Fakir was dismissed, but the Diwan and Atar Singh were insulted, abused, and confined in camp till after the murder of the Wazir, on the 22nd September, when the army, always afraid of the Rani, sent them to Lahore to try and make their peace.

Sardar Atar Singh served throughout the Satlaj Campaign of 1845-46, and at the battle of Firozshahar his brother Chatar Singh was killed. In September 1846 Atar Singh was ordered to join the Sikh army proceeding to Kashmir to suppress the rebellion there; but he took no notice of repeated injunctions, remaining at his house, near Amritsar, on pretence of celebrating the marriage of



his niece. For this conduct his jagir was confiscated. Shortly afterwards, however, it was restored to him and made up to Rs. 1,11,800. He received a seat in the Council of Regency appointed on December 1846, and held this post till the annexation of the Panjab. On the first news of the outbreak at Multan in April 1848, he was ordered to proceed thither in command of all the available irregular troops. He was recalled, with the other Sardars, when the Resident at Lahore found that it was considered inexpedient to send a European force to Multan at that time of year ; but later, he accompanied Raja Sher Singh to Multan in command of the cavalry.

The Sardar had little influence over the troops which he commanded. He was of a weak and vacillating character ; and although his own intentions were good, he was quite unable to keep his men to their duty. Day by day they grew more and more mutinous, and deserted in numbers to the rebel Mulraj in Multan. At length it was agreed by the three Sikh Generals, Raja Sher Singh, Sardar Shamsher Singh and Sardar Atar Singh, in concert with Major Edwardes, and with the concurrence of the English General, that the only thing to do was to move the troops out of temptation, away from Multan. Sardar Atar Singh's division was to be posted at Talamba under pretence of keeping open the road ; but before the movement could be executed the whole Sikh army rebelled and, being joined by Raja Sher Singh, marched to Multan. Sardar Atar Singh mounted his horse and fled to the camp of Major Edwardes with a few horsemen. His son Lal Singh was carried off by the troops, but soon afterwards contrived to make his escape and joined Edwardes also.

Lal Singh had in June 1847 been sent in command of five hundred sowars to Hasan Abdal, and had remained there till the 3rd of May 1848, when he received an order to join the

force of Raja Sher Singh on its way to Multan. When Diwan Kishan Kaur, Adalati of Batala, joined the rebels, Sardar Lal Singh was appointed to succeed him, and held the appointment for about three months till the close of the Sikh administration.

On annexation all the personal jagirs of Sardar Atar Singh, amounting to Rs. 47,750, were maintained for life; one quarter to descend to his son Lal Singh and his male heirs in perpetuity. The jagir of Sardar Lal Singh, worth Rs. 3,600, being a recent grant of 1848, was resumed; but he was assigned a cash allowance of Rs. 4,800 from the jagir of his father, with whom he was at feud.

Sardar Atar Singh died in December 1851, and three-fourths of his jagir was resumed. The share of his son Lal Singh was in February 1862 raised to Rs. 15,000, which is continued in perpetuity. Lal Singh resided at Kala in the Amritsar district, where he died in 1888. For many years he had taken no active part in public affairs beyond sitting as a member of the committee of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's *Samadh* at Lahore. He was a splendid specimen of the old Sikh Sardar, and to the last was fond of hawking, hunting and other field sports. He had been four times married, but had no children. He adopted his nephew Gulzar Singh, to whom, on the special recommendation of Sir Charles Aitchison, the Government of India has continued the jagir of Rs. 15,000 in perpetuity. Gulzar Singh was privately educated. He is a young man of handsome appearance, pleasing manners and of great intelligence. He resides at Kala. In addition to the jagir, the Sardar possesses other property in land and houses.



## SARDAR GURDIT SINGH, RAMGARHIA.



The Ramgarhia Misal, from which the family of Sardar Mangal Singh takes its name, was one of the most powerful of the Sikh Confederacies, and towards the close of the eighteenth century could bring into the field about eight thousand fighting men. Of its leaders, Jasa Singh was the most distinguished, although he can hardly be called its founder; for through many unquiet years it had existed as an organized body under Khushal Singh and Nand Singh. But it was only when Jasa Singh succeeded to the command in 1758 that it became powerful and renowned.

Har Das, the grandfather of Jasa Singh, was a Hindu of the *najar* or carpenter caste, resident at Sarsang in the Lahore district. He was content to follow his humble trade in his native village; but his son Bhagwan, of a more adventurous disposition, took the *pahal*, the Sikh baptism, and, with the addition of Singh to his name, wandered about

the country, making converts to his new faith. He at length settled at Ichugil, where there were born to him five sons, Jai Singh, Jasa Singh, Khushal Singh, Mali Singh and Tara Singh; the four last of whom became noted men and leaders of the Ramgarhia Misal. There was no great difference in the ages of the brothers; and in 1752, on their reaching manhood, they entered the service of the celebrated Nawab Adina Beg Khan. This able man, then Imperial Governor of the Jalandhar Doab, encouraged the Sikhs in their resistance to Ahmad Shah Durani, hoping to rise by their assistance to supreme power in the province; and in this he would probably have been successful, but for his premature death in 1758. When Prince Timur, son of Ahmad Shah, marched against him, determined to punish his opposition, Adina Beg retreated to the hills, and Jasa Singh and his brothers left him and went to Amritsar, where they joined the force of Nand Singh Sanghani. Jai Singh was about this time killed in action with the Afghans near Majithia.

Amritsar was at this time no more than a large village; and on the retreat of the Afghans, Nand Singh and Jasa Singh partially fortified it, surrounding a portion with a high mud wall, which they called Ram Rauni. When Adina Beg returned, thinking the Sikhs were becoming too powerful, he sent Mirza Aziz Bakhsh to reduce the new fort, which was, in truth, no difficult matter. Jasa Singh and his friends fought gallantly, and made more than one sally from the fort; but they were overmatched, and at length abandoned it at night, and with considerable loss cut their way through the enemy. The Ram Rauni was dismantled; but Adina Beg died shortly afterwards, and Jasa Singh, taking command of the confederacy, named the fort he had defended so bravely Ramgarh, and his Misal the Ramgarhia. He seized at this time, aided by the Kanhya Misal, Dinanagar, Batala, Kalanaur, Sri Hargovindpur, Kadian, Ghuman and many



other towns in the Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts, the revenue of which was estimated at from six to ten lakhs of rupees. Besides this, Jasa Singh, who was sole lord of the territory, acquired many villages in the Jalandhar Doab. To his brothers he gave separate jagirs under him. It was their imprudence which brought great trouble on the family; for as Jasa Singh Ahluwalia was passing near Gurdaspur on his way to Achal, a place of pilgrimage, he was attacked by Khushal Singh, Mali Singh and Tara Singh; his troops were dispersed and himself taken prisoner. Jasa Singh Ramgarhia, who would have been glad enough had his brothers slain his rival, could only release him with rich gifts when he was brought in as prisoner; for the old Sikh barons had much of the spirit of chivalry. But the Ahluwalia Chieftain was not to be appeased. He was looked up to as the head of the Khalsa, and indeed its founder; his followers and flatterers called him King (*Sultan-ul-Kaum*), and yet he had been insulted by these Ramgarhia youths whose beards had but just begun to grow; and he swore a mighty oath that he would never loose his turban till he had seized all the Ramgarhia estates. Many Chiefs came to aid him, thinking not much of the insult, but having an eye to plunder and new jagirs. There was Ganda Singh and Jhanda Singh Bhangi; the Kanhyas, Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh, old friends of the Ramgarhias; Charat Singh Sukarchakia, Nar Singh Chamariwala and many others. They attacked Jasa Singh on all sides, and after a severe struggle took possession of all the Ramgarhia territory. Khushal Singh was badly wounded at Begowal fighting with Jai Singh Kanhya; Tara Singh lost Kalanaur, and Jasa Singh fled across the Satlaj to Sirsa with a large body of irregular horse, having sent his two sons to the Patiala Chief, Amar Singh, to beg assistance.

In the Sirsa district he remained till 1783. He overran the country with his horsemen, and plundered up to the walls

of Dehli ; on one occasion he penetrated into Dehli itself, and carried off four guns from the Moghal quarter. The Nawab of Mirat paid him tribute of Rs. 10,000 a year to save his district from plunder. One day a Brahman complained to him that the Governor of Hissar had carried off his two daughters by force. Jasa Singh collected his forces and marched against Hissar, which he plundered, and restored the girls to their father. Sometimes he was reduced to great straits ; and there is a story, which may be true, that at Sirsa a servant of the Sardar happening to drop his vessel down a well a diver was sent to fetch it, who discovered at the bottom four boxes full of gold-mohurs to the value of five lakhs of rupees, enabling Jasa Singh to pay his troops and enlist new followers.

A great famine desolated Sirsa in 1783, and the Sardar returned to the Panjab. At Ludhiana he met messengers from Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia and Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra, offering to re-instate him in his possessions if he would join them against Sardar Jai Singh Kanhya. Jasa Singh consented readily enough, and having joined forces the allies marched to Batala. Gurbakhsh Singh, son of Jai Singh, advanced against them with eight thousand men ; but he was defeated and slain, and the Kanhya Chief was compelled to give up the Ramgarhia estates to their old owner, and the fort of Kangra, which he had held for four years, to Sansar Chand. But Jasa Singh was not destined to enjoy peace ; and for many years he was engaged in disputes with the Kanhya Misal, in which he was sometimes successful, sometimes defeated.

In 1796 his last and most severe struggle with the Kanhyas took place. Mai Sada Kaur, widow of Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh, was then head of the Misal ; and with all her own forces and those of her young son-in-law, Ranjit Singh, she besieged Jasa Singh in Miani, a fort in the Hushiarpur



district near the Bias. Jasa Singh defended himself for some time; but his provisions ran very low, and he sent a messenger to Sahib Singh Bedi at Amritsar to beg him to interpose between him and his enemies. Jodh Singh Wazirabadia and Dal Singh Gil were with the Bedi on the part of Ranjit Singh when the Ramgarhia messenger arrived, and Sahib Singh gave them a message to Sada Kaur and Ranjit Singh bidding them raise the siege of Miani. But Sada Kaur would not retire without her revenge for her husband's death; and her enemy was now in her hands, so no notice was taken of the Bedi's order. Again Jasa Singh sent a messenger, and Bedi Sahib Singh said. "They will not mind me, but God himself will aid you." The messenger returned to Miani, and that very night the river Bias came down in flood and swept away a large portion of the Kanhya camp, men and horses and camels. Sada Kaur and Ranjit Singh escaped with difficulty and retired to Gujranwala.

Jasa Singh died in 1803, and was succeeded by his eldest son Jodh Singh. The new Sardar was not a man of any ability, and his cousin Diwan Singh seized a large portion of the jagir. At length Ranjit Singh began to lust after the Ramgarhia territory, and feigned the greatest affection for Sardar Jodh Singh. He had a contract of eternal friendship between himself and the Ramgarhia family drawn out; and before the *Granth*, in the holy Darbar Sahib at Amritsar, he stamped the paper, in his royal and illiterate way, with his open palm dyed with saffron. The better to cajole Jodh Singh, he went over the Ramgarh fort almost unattended, and ordered his new fort of Govindgarh to be built in the same fashion. Ranjit Singh cared little about keeping oaths, however solemn; but Jodh Singh had been won over, and became so devoted a follower that there was no excuse to annex his territory. He accompanied the Maharaja to

Kasur with all his force in the last successful expedition against Kutbudin Khan.

On the death of Jodh Singh in 1816, the family began to quarrel; Diwan Singh, Bir Singh and the widow of Jodh Singh all claiming the estate. The Maharaja, hearing of this, called the three cousins, Bir Singh, Mahtab Singh and Diwan Singh, to him at Nadaun, promising to settle the dispute by arbitration. On their arrival they were received with courtesy by the Maharaja; but he soon took occasion to leave the reception tent, which was straightway surrounded with troops, and the three Ramgarhias made prisoners. Then Ranjit Singh marched on Amritsar, and after some severe fighting took the fort of Ramgarh. Again, marching northward, he seized all the vast Ramgarhia jagirs, and in a short time reduced all their forts, upwards of a hundred in number. And thus was cancelled the saffron bond.

Bir Singh and Mahtab Singh were soon released, and were placed under Sardar Lahna Singh Majithia; and at the intercession of Sardar Nahal Singh Atariwala a jagir of Rs. 35,000 was settled on the family. Diwan Singh for some time refused to accept his share of Rs. 6,000 at Dharamkot, and remained a prisoner; but at length pretended to acquiesce. On regaining his freedom, however, he fled to Patiala, where he was at first well received; but after a year was compelled to leave, and he then wandered about for some time till he thought it best to submit, and, returning to Lahore, he accepted a command of seven hundred men in the expedition then fitting out for Kashmir. After this we hear little of him beyond that he remained in charge of Baramula, a difficult hill-post on the road to Srinagar, till his death in 1834. Bir Singh had died six years before in 1828, when two-thirds of his jagir were resumed.

Sardar Mangal Singh served during his younger days about the person of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who gave him



jagirs in Dharmkot, Kalowala, Tibrah and Kundilab, worth Rs. 9,000, of which Rs. 3,600 were personal, and Rs. 5,400 for service. After his father's death, Sardar Mangal Singh was sent to Peshawar in command of four hundred foot and one hundred and ten sowars of the old Ramgarhia clan. Here, under Sardar Tej Singh and Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa, he did good service, and fought in the famous battle of Jamrud in April 1837, where the gallant Hari Singh was killed. In 1839 he was recalled and sent to the hill country between the Bias and the Satlaj, under the orders of Sardar Lahna Singh Majithia, and during the absence of that Chief at Peshawar he was placed in charge of the hill forts, and was active in the suppression of the insurrection of 1840.

During the reign of Maharaja Sher Singh, he was chiefly employed under Lahna Singh in Suket, Mandi and Kulu, and he remained there till the close of the Satlaj War in 1846. The Rajput Chiefs, with Raja Balbir Sen of Mandi at their head, were not slow to take advantage of the war with the English, and gave the Sardar plenty of work; but he held his ground till the Treaty of the 9th March 1846 enabled him to give up his trust with honour.

During the Second Sikh War, Sardar Mangal Singh remained loyal, and did excellent service in guarding the roads and maintaining order in the Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts. His great exploit, however, at this time was the capture of the notorious rebel and robber Hari Singh, who had for some time kept the country about Amritsar in a state of alarm. This he effected at Sagarpura, near Rangar Nangal, a grant of which jagir, worth Rs. 3,700, was made to him by the Darbar and confirmed after annexation.

In 1862, on the retirement of Sardar Jodh Singh Man, Sardar Mangal Singh was appointed manager of the affairs of the Sikh temple at Amritsar. This appointment, which is one of some difficulty, was filled by the Sardar with tact and

ability. In the same year he was appointed Honorary Magistrate of the city of Amritsar. In 1876, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales conferred upon him the Companionship of the Star of India. He died in 1879.

Sardar Mangal Singh was a man of education and liberal ideas. It was in a great measure owing to his influence and example that the cause of female education has been so widely and systematically taken up in the city of Amritsar.

Gurdit Singh, eldest son of Sardar Mangal Singh, in February 1858 joined Colonel Abbott at Hushiarpur when that officer was raising a force of cavalry for service in Oudh. Gurdit Singh was made Rasaldar, and served in the Oudh Mounted Police to the complete satisfaction of his superior officers until October 1859, when, on the reduction of the force, he returned to Amritsar, where he was made an Inspector of Police. He retired in 1887 on a pension of Rs. 1,200 per annum. He and his nephews enjoy a jagir of Rs. 3,600 per annum, allowed in perpetuity to the descendants of Sardar Mangal Singh. Suchet Singh, the second son of Sardar Mangal Singh, was a Munsif in the province. He died in 1879. The third son, Sher Singh, was for some years a Deputy Inspector of Police. He resigned for the purpose of looking after the affairs of the family, and died in 1888. Many of the younger members of the family have taken service in the army and police.



## PARTAB SINGH CHAMIARI, RANDHAWA.



The founder of the Chamiari family was not Nar Singh, the true ancestor of the family, but Sawal Singh, a distant connection, who about the year 1750 adopted the Sikh faith and became a member of the Bhangi Misal. He fought for his Chief, Hari Singh, in many battles, but does not appear to have neglected his personal interests; as a few years later we find him the possessor of a large tract of country on the left bank of the Ravi, including Ajnala and Chamiari, or Chambyari, from which place the family took its name. Sawal Singh was killed in battle leaving no issue; but his widow, Mai Malkian, made over the estate to Nar Singh, a cousin of her deceased husband and his devoted follower, a brave and enterprising man. This arrangement was confirmed by the *gurmata* or Sikh national council, and Nar Singh, the acknowledged heir

of all Sawal Singh's estates, went forth conquering and to conquer. Not content with the Amritsar side of the river, he invaded the Sialkot district, and took possession of Pasrur and many villages in its vicinity. He then transferred his services to the rising Kanbha Misal, and at Nunar in the Sialkot district had a sharp fight with his old allies. The young Sukarchakia Chief, Mahan Singh, was on his side, and opposed to him were Jhanda Singh and all the bravest of the Bhangi Chiefs. The origin of the quarrel was trivial enough. Nar Singh passing through one Jhanda Singh's villages had turned his horses into a field of young corn to graze. The Bhangi Chief came down in great wrath and insisted on their removal. Nar Singh refused to interrupt his horses at their meal. This insult Jhanda Singh was unable to endure, and, collecting all his men and making as many allies as he was able, he marched against Nar Singh, who was prepared to meet him. The fight was not decisive, and soon afterwards Nar Singh disgusted his Sukarchakia friends by giving his daughter Karam Kaur in marriage to Amar Singh, nephew of Sardar Jhanda Singh. He did not, however, openly break with the Sukarchakias, and in 1799 we find him assisting the son of Mahan Singh to capture Lahore.

Nar Singh died in 1806. His eldest son Ram Singh died some months before him of cholera in the camp of Jaswant Rao Holkar, the Mahrata Chief. On his death, Ranjit Singh took possession of the greater portion of the family estates, including the Sialkot villages and the Talukas of Sadowal, Ghaniwala and Chamiari. The town of Chamiari was left in the possession of the family who still hold it in proprietary right.

Chamiari is a very ancient town; and there are several legends regarding its origin, which may be given here. One of these relates that Raja Salvahan of Sialkot, who reigned about 90 A.D., passing with his retinue near the



spot where Chamiari now stands, saw a young girl drawing water at a well. Struck by her marvellous beauty, he enquired her name, and found that it was Chamba, and that she was the daughter of the Rajput Chief of the district. Salvahan asked the girl in marriage; but her father declined, as the Raja's name was a terror throughout the Panjab to both parents and daughters, as he was accustomed to take a new wife every day, and maidens were becoming scarce in the land. But the Raja was not to be denied. He swore that if Chamba was only given to him he would not marry again for eight days, and to these reasonable terms the father consented. But by the eighth day Raja Salvahan had grown so deeply enamoured of the beautiful Chamba, that he was content to divorce all his other wives and to keep her only for life; and to glorify his love and render it immortal, he built around the well where he had first seen her drawing water the town of Chamiari, which he called after her name.

Another story asserts that Chamiari was named after the caste of Raja Salvahan's favourite wife, whose name was Luna, the daughter of Raja Pipa of Papnakha, a Champal Rajput. She was the mother of Risalu, from whom Sialkot was formerly called Risalkot. Luna was remarkable for her beauty, though not for her virtue, as the following story will show. Iehran, another of Raja Salvahan's many wives, became the mother of a beautiful boy, who was named Puran. The astrologers, who had assembled at the palace to draw the horoscope of the new-born infant, declared that the greatest calamities would befall him should he be seen by his father before his twelfth birthday. In those days astrologers were believed; and a high tower was accordingly built in which the boy was carefully guarded till the twelve years had come, as the attendants thought, to an end, when they brought him to his delighted father. But one day had been omitted from the calculation: the twelve years had not expired.

When Luma saw the lovely boy she fell in love with him at once. This was less her fault than that of the stars; and at last, unable to control herself, she caught Puran in her arms and told him all her love. He had not been taught the art of love in his solitary tower, and only laughed at Luma's distress and ran away; while she, enraged at the repulse, and her love turning to hatred, tore her hair and clothes, and when the Raja came in told him with weeping eyes that Puran had attempted her virtue. The Raja made no enquiries, but straightway ordered that the boy should be taken into the jungle and there put to death. As the poor little fellow was being carried off by the executioners he begged hard for his life, but for long begged in vain. At length the men promised not to kill him; but they cut off both his hands and threw him down a well, where they left him to die. But the life of Puran was miraculously preserved, and about two years afterwards the great magician Ghorakh Nath came to the place with his twelve thousand disciples. One of these drawing water from the well saw the boy, and having taken him out carried him to the magician, who by enchantments replaced his hands. Ghorakh Nath then brought Puran to the palace, and restored to sight Ichran, who had become blind with weeping for the untimely fate of her son. Raja Salvahan, confounded by these prodigies, wished to resign the crown to his son; but Puran would not accept the offer and, renouncing the world, became a disciple of Ghorakh Nath, with whom he remained until his death.

Such are the legends regarding the founding of Chamiari, which is undoubtedly of great antiquity. It was almost entirely destroyed in the great inundation about a thousand years ago when the five rivers of the Panjab united; but was rebuilt under the Emperors. In 1722 it was burnt down by the Sikhs, and was still in ruins when it came into the possession of Nar Singh, who restored and enlarged it.



On the death of the widow of Nar Singh and of Hari Singh his second son, the little estate left to the family was again reduced, and the whole was resumed by Maharaja Sher Singh on the death of Jai Singh in 1841.

Sardar Gurdit Singh, who was commandant of Maharaja Dalip Singh's Body Guard, held a jagir at Dhariwal near Ajnala, worth Rs. 1,200 per annum, one-third of which lapsed at his death in 1878. His two sons, Partab Singh and Nahal Singh, joined the rebels in 1848 and lost their jagirs. Khem Kaur, widow of Sardar Jai Singh, received a pension of Rs. 500 per annum. The pension lapsed on her death. Of this branch of the family there are two survivors, namely, Sant Singh and Narain Singh. The former lives in Dargwal, Tahsil Batala, and the latter is a Thanadar in the Ludhiana district. The descendants of Gurdit Singh and Partab Singh live in Chamiari. The family is of no importance. Bhagwan Singh is a Lambardar. He and his brother Sham Singh enjoy a jagir of Rs. 667 from the village of Dhariwal, Tahsil Ajnala, in Amritsar.

## SANT SINGH, VEGLIA.



Sahib Singh joined the Kanhya Confederacy about 1760, and fought under both Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh. He took possession of Taragarh in the Pathankot pargana of the Gurdaspur district, and after Sardar Mahan Singh's successful expedition against Jamu, Sahib Singh, who had accompanied it, received a grant of Sayadgarh, worth Rs. 30,000. He founded the village of Wachoya, where he resided till his death in 1803. His estates in Taragarh, Sayadgarh and Wachoya were of the value of Rs. 90,000, and were held intact by his four sons till 1812, when Maharaja Ranjit Singh marched against Taragarh, and after a short siege reduced the fort and confiscated a great portion of the estate. Twelve villages, including Wachoya, worth Rs. 10,000, were still left, free of service; but in the ten years succeeding the confiscation the four brothers all



died, and Sardar Jawahir Singh succeeded to the estate with his cousins Jamiat Singh, Sangat Singh and Ran Singh. They fought in many of the Maharaja's campaigns, though their jagir was a subsistence one; and they had no obligation to supply a contingent, till Desa Singh Majithia, who was Governor of the Jalandhar Doab, told Jawahir Singh that a Sardar should give a contingent for the service of the State if he wished his name to endure, and fixed fifteen horsemen as the suitable number.

The Veglia jagirs were not interfered with till 1846, when Raja Lal Singh, who had no love for Sardar Desa Singh, the family patron, took advantage of his departure to Banares to confiscate the whole estate; but a year afterwards the Darbar, with the sanction of the Resident, restored the jagir with an increased assessment of Rs. 21,000 and service of thirty sowars. During the disturbances of 1848-49 the Veglia family remained faithful. Didar Singh joined Captain Hodson with his contingent, and did good service at Rangar Nangal, Parmanand and elsewhere. At annexation the whole personal estate of the family, amounting to Rs. 8,608, was released; one-third of the share of each descending to the lineal male heirs in perpetuity. Didar Singh became a Rasaldar in the Military Police, and took his discharge at the time of the general reductions. He died in 1869.

Sant Singh, son of Ran Singh, was sent down to Dehli as Jamadar in the Rasala raised by Major R. Lawrence in July 1857 to serve with the Guide Cavalry at the siege. A portion of the Rasala was permanently transferred to the Guide Corps; the remainder formed the nucleus of the Dehli Mounted Police, in which Sant Singh was promoted to be Rasaldar. He served with zeal and ability till the reduction of the Military Police, when he received his discharge. He afterwards joined the Provincial Police as an Inspector. In 1866 he was transferred at his own request as

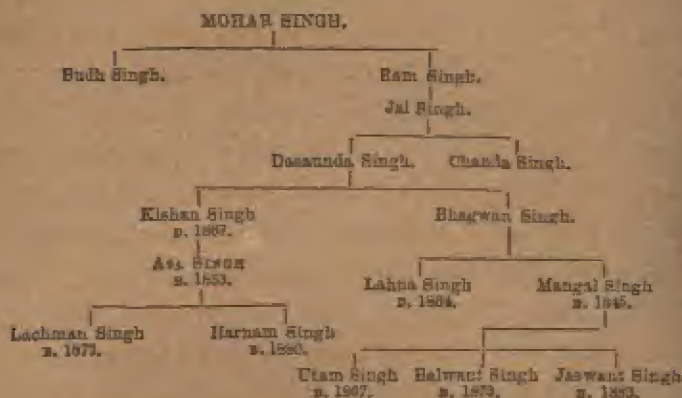
a Rasaidar to the 4th Bengal Cavalry, in which regiment he was subsequently made Wardi Major and Rasaldar. He served throughout the Afghan War of 1879-80, and acquitted himself well on several occasions before the enemy. He retired in 1882 after thirty-two years' meritorious service on a pension of Rs. 360 per annum. His son Harcharn Singh went to Egypt in the Transport Department, and is now employed in the Sialkot Settlement as a Kanungo.

The living members of the family are in receipt of a jagir income of about Rs. 1,025, namely, Rs. 125 in Wachoya in the Ajnala Tahsil, and Rs. 900 in Taragarh, Tahsil Pathankot, Gurdaspur, the original home of the family.

Sardar Sant Singh is the only surviving member of any importance and influence.



## ASA SINGH OF BHILOWAL, SIDHU.



The Bhilowal branch of the Sidhu family includes no Chief of any importance. Budh Singh made himself master of a good many villages in the Amritsar district, and was killed in one of Ahmad Shah's invasions. His brother Ram Singh succeeded to the estate: but in the early days of Sikh history few Chiefs died in their beds: and after some years he also was killed in battle. His son Jai Singh was a mere child at the time of his father's death; and Mahi Singh took possession of the estate, which he considerably increased and managed with much vigour and wisdom till Jai Singh grew up and demanded his rightful inheritance. He was satisfied with obtaining from his cousin the two villages of Bhilowal and Kuchakwal, and died two years after the arrangement, leaving an infant son, Dasaunda Singh; from whom Mahi Singh took back Kuchakwal, which he had only given to Jai Singh with great reluctance. But Maharaja Ranjit Singh seized the possession of both with the greatest impartiality, allowing Dasaunda Singh Rs. 3,000 per annum, with which he was to supply five sowars to the Sowrian Dera, which was first under Prince Sher Singh, and latterly under Jamadar Khushal Singh. After his father's death Kishan Singh took his place in this regiment; but

the contingent was raised to nine sowars, which he had to furnish till the annexation of the Panjab, when his jagir was confiscated, as he had joined Raja Sher Singh. He died in 1867. Kishan Singh's son Asa Singh and his cousin Mangal Singh are now the prominent members of this not very prominent family. They hold no jagirs, and live upon the profits of twenty acres of land. They are in decaying circumstances, and have no local influence.



## JAWAHIR SINGH, SIDHU.



Lakha Singh held the large estate of Awan, to which, on his death, his eldest son Ranjit Singh succeeded. He had married the daughter of the celebrated Fateh Singh Kalianwala; and when that Chief was killed in 1807 at the storming of the fort of Naraingarh, Ranjit Singh Sidhu succeeded to a large portion of his jagirs, the remainder going to Dal Singh Naharna. Also on the death of Amir Singh, son of Sardar Jodh Singh, without issue, he received the jagir of Sowrian, worth Rs. 1,50,000, subject to the service of three hundred sowars. He only held this jagir for two years, after which it was conferred on Prince Sher Singh. He served at Multan, Teri and Kachi, and was killed in action at Gheb Kamrial in 1836. On his death all his jagirs were resumed, with the exception of Rs. 15,000, principally from the estate of Sardar Fateh Singh, which was confirmed to Ishar Singh and Gurmukh Singh.

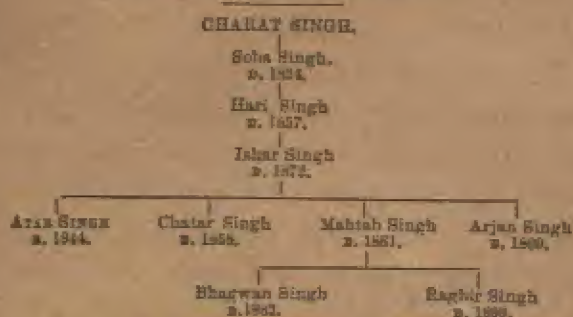
Ishar Singh served with credit at Dera Ismail Khan and Peshawar, and in 1834 went with Prince Kharak Singh on his expedition to Tank and Mithankot. In 1837 he contrived to offend the authorities at Lahore; and all his jagirs were taken from him, with the exception of the village of Salimpura. He was, however, made a commandant of forty-two sowars on Rs. 800 per annum, and placed under the command of Sardar Lahna Singh Sindhanwalia. Sarup Singh, uncle of Ishar Singh, retained his jagir; but at his death, his son Dhana Singh having been killed at Sobraon, they were resumed.

In 1847 Kishan Singh's contingent was reduced to fifteen horse, and leaving these at Lahore he went to Bannu with Edwardes, and afterwards to Multan. He returned to Lahore with Sardar Atar Singh Kalianwala, escaping from the rebel army with difficulty, and only bringing back three of the fifty horsemen he had taken with him. He was then sent to Dinanagar under Sardar Shamsber Singh Sindhanwalia, and afterwards to Pind Dadan Khan. At annexation he received a pension of Rs. 360, which he still enjoys.

Nahal Singh's two sons enjoy a jagir of Rs. 225 per annum in the villages of Kotli Dasaundiwala, Bhindi Saidan and Awan in Tahsil Ajnala. Jawahir Singh, son of Amir Singh, is now the leading member of the family. Dhian Singh, son of Jaswant Singh, is Lambardar of Awan. The family possess no influence and merely occupy the position of ordinary zamindars.



## ATAR SINGH, BHAKHA.

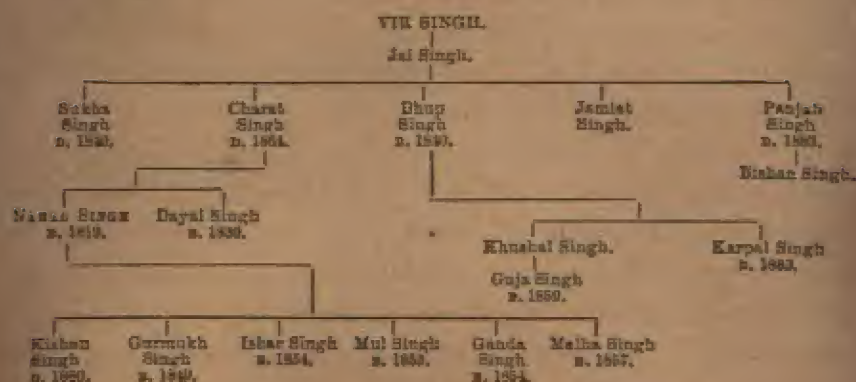


The ancestors of Atar Singh came into the Panjab from Malwa about the beginning of the seventeenth century, and settled near Chunian in the Lahore district. In 1738 they made a second move to the village of Bhakha in the Amritsar district, from which they derive their family name. Sardar Charat Singh was the son of a sister of Sardar Sawal Singh Ulakhwala, a powerful Bhangi Chief. On the death of Sawal Singh, without issue, the estate was divided by the Sikh *gurmata*, or national council, between Nar Singh Chamiani, the *potrela* of the deceased, and Charat Singh, the sister's son. The share of Nar Singh was the larger; but the jagirs of Charat Singh were valuable and extensive, and he held them till his death. His son Soba Singh held jagirs worth Rs. 40,000, subject to the service of one hundred and fifty horsemen, from Sardar Hakikat Singh Kanhya; but Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the year 1802 seized all but Rs. 7,000, subject to the service of five horsemen, who with Soba Singh were employed in Ghorchara Kalan. The estate was soon afterwards further reduced to Rs. 2,116 at Guralia and Bhakha, Soba Singh having displeased the Maharaja by refusing to give him his daughter in marriage. Soba Singh died in 1824; and the village of Guralia was resumed, and the village of Bhakha, worth Rs. 600, alone left to Hari Singh.

In 1848 Hari Singh, with his contingent, served under the orders of Captain Hodson at Rangar Nangal and elsewhere, and remained faithful throughout the disturbances. On the annexation of the country the jagir was upheld to him. He died in 1857 ; and to his son Ishar Singh half the village of Bhakha, in the Ajnala parganna, has been maintained in perpetuity. Ishar Singh died in 1872. His son Atar Singh, now at the head of the family, is a respectable and literate Lambardar of two villages, and lives at Bhakha Hari Singh. His brother Mahtab Singh is a Dafadar in the 9th Bengal Lancers. He served with his regiment in Egypt. The family is not now one of much local influence, though connected by marriage with the Sardars of China and Raja Sansi. The jagir yields Rs. 330 per annum, and is enjoyed in equal shares by the four sons of the late Ishar Singh.



## NAHAL SINGH OF KOT SAYAD MAHMUD.



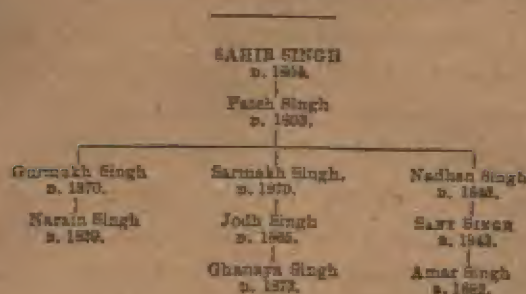
Jai Singh, a Sindhu Jat of Kot Sayad Mahmud, a small village two miles from the city of Amritsar, was a trooper in the employ of Sardar Gulab Singh Bhangi. In the year 1809 Maharaja Ranjit Singh married Jai Singh's daughter Rup Kaur, and this marriage made the fortune of the family; for the Ilaka Akhnur, worth Rs. 30,000, was assigned to Charat Singh and Bhup Singh, subject to the service of two hundred horsemen. They held it for fifteen years, when it was resumed; and Charat Singh obtained instead the jagir of Dharuwal, worth Rs. 2,500, free of service, with the commandantsip of an irregular regiment. In the year 1831 Charat Singh was severely wounded at the battle of Sayadki Sarai, fought against Sayad Ahmad Shah by Prince Sher Singh. Bhup Singh was killed in the Khaibar in 1840, and his estate of Rs. 2,000 was assigned to his sons. In 1848 the family, with but few exceptions, joined the rebels, and the jagirs they had enjoyed were confiscated. Charat Singh received a pension of Rs. 100 per annum, and Rani Rup Kaur, who died in 1878, a pension of Rs. 1,980. The family also holds a fifth share in the village of Kot Sayad Mahmud. Rani Rup Kaur adopted Sundar Singh, grandson of her brother

Gulab Singh; and he inherited all her movable property, which is said to have been very valuable. There are at the present time eighty-six members of the family in the village of Kot Sayad Mahmud, but none are in affluent circumstances. They have been reduced to the humble position which their ancestors occupied before the marriage of Rup Kaur with the Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Bishan Singh, son of Panjab Singh, and grandson of Jai Singh, is chief Lambardar of the village.



## SANT SINGH OF TANG.



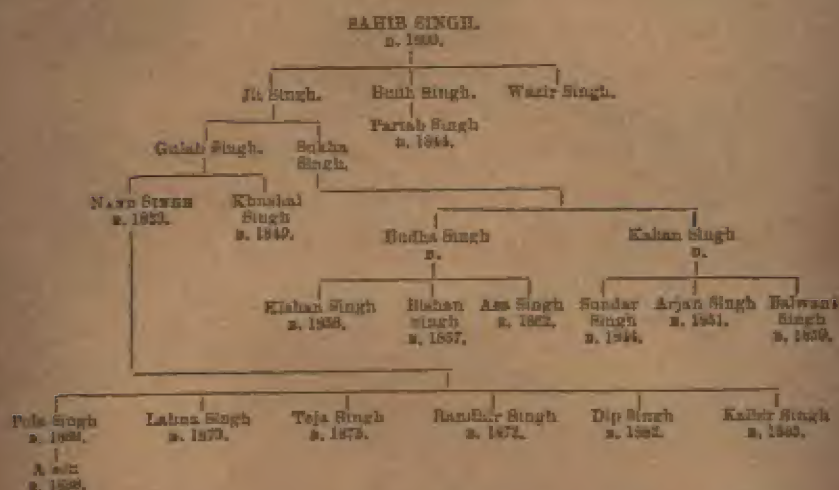
The Sikhs of Tang near Amritsar are of an old family of Tang Rajputs who emigrated from Dehli about the beginning of the eighteenth century and founded the village which bears their name. In course of time, from association and inter-marriages, they became Jats, and on the Sikhs rising to power joined the Ramgarhia Confederacy under Jassa Singh. Sahib Singh received Tang with some adjacent villages from his Chief in jagir, and died in 1804, his only son Fateh Singh having died the preceding year. Fateh Singh's three sons remained with Jodh Singh, the Ramgarhia Sardar, till in 1816 the Maharaja seized the possessions of the Confederacy, and they were glad to enter the service of the conqueror. Gurmukh Singh and Nadhan Singh each received command of one hundred horsemen, and served under Misar Diwan Chand and, on his death, under Sardar Desa Singh Majithia. After the capture of Multan in 1818, at which the brothers were present, they received a grant of their ancestral village of Tang, valued at Rs. 750, in three equal shares, subject to the service of three horsemen, and their salaries were considerably raised. Gurmukh Singh, who was commandant in the Ramgarhia brigade, served at Multan, Mankera, Tira, Kashmir, and Peshawar. He also fought in the Satlaj Campaign of 1845-46, when his brother Nadhan Singh was killed. Under the Darbar he was employed in the Manjha as assistant to Gumani Lal and Lal Singh

Talwandi, and afterwards was sent to Sowrian under Diwan Hakim Rai. He died in 1870.

The jagirs held by Sarmakh Singh and Jodh Singh lapsed on their death. Sant Singh, son of Nadhan Singh, and Narain Singh are the only living representatives of the family. They are in poor circumstances and no longer rank as Chiefs in the Panjab. Sant Singh is Lambardar of Tang. He is a man of good bearing and pleasing manners, but of no local influence. He has not a seat in Darbar.



## NAND SINGH RANDHAWA, OF KATHU-NANGAL.



Chaudhri Dalab, tenth in descent from Randhawa, founded the village of Chavinda in the Amritsar district. His four sons, Gagu, Jabhu, Ram and Lakhan, founded, respectively, the villages of Kathu-Nangal, Sabniwali, Wariam-Nangal and Rupowali. Sahib Singh, who took the *pahal* and became a Sikh about the year 1770, was the great-grandson of Gagu. He joined Sardar Jai Singh Kanhya and took possession of about thirty villages in the neighbourhood of Kathu-Nangal, Dharmkot, and Chakowal. Sahib Singh was a gallant man and bore the scars of fourteen wounds. He fought on the side of the Kanhyas in all their quarrels, and fell at last before the fort of Atalgarh in a skirmish with the Ramgarhia troops. His two sons Jit Singh and Budh Singh succeeded to his estate, but the elder of these was killed soon afterwards at Lodha-Mandowala fighting against the Ramgarhias, who had slain his father.

Budh Singh was one of the last of the Kanhya Sardars to tender his allegiance to Ranjit Singh, by whom he and the sons of Jit Singh were allowed to retain their estates.

He served in the army in Hazara, Yusufzai, and Kashmir till 1823, when he was obliged to retire through ill-health, and the Maharaja resumed all his villages except Ladha-Manda, worth Rs. 3,000, and a portion of Kathu-Nangal. He died three years later, and his only son, Partab Singh, was placed in the Ghorchara Kalan regiment, and was afterwards transferred as Adjutant to the Povindia Regiment, of which he became Commandant in 1840. In 1842 he was made Colonel and received a grant of the jagir of Khiali, worth Rs. 1,000. He died without issue in 1844.

None others of the family were in any way distinguished. Nand Singh, the present representative, resigned the service and lost his jagir in 1848. He resides at Kathu-Nangal, where he possesses a well and half the proprietary rights of the village. Kushal Singh, his son, is chief Lambardar of Kathu-Nangal. None of the members have taken service. Nand Singh is not a Darbari.



## SARDAR AKWAK SINGH RANDHAWA, ISAPURIA.

DASAUNDA SINGH.

Bhagat Singh.

Ram Singh  
d. 1858.Sahib Singh  
d. 1874.S. Akwar Singh.  
d. 1884.

The founder of the Isapur branch of Randhawas was Dasaunda Singh. Having become a Sikh in 1730 he entered the service of Adina Beg, with whom he remained till 1758.

He then joined the Bhangi Confederacy, and through the influence of Chaudhri Raman, a Randhawa Rajput and a distant relative, he obtained a jagir worth about Rs. 20,000, including the village of Isapur, which has ever since remained in the family, and from which Dasaunda Singh took his family name. His son Bhagat Singh preserved the old estate and acquired new jagirs; and Sardar Ram Singh, about the year 1804, joined Ranjit Singh, who confirmed to him the villages of Isapur, Bolah, Suran, and others in the Amritsar district. He did good service on several occasions; and in 1818 received the grant of jagirs to the value of five lakhs of rupees, subject to the service of seven hundred horsemen and two thousand infantry. This was a special grant for the Kashmir Campaign, and was resumed in 1821 after the fall of Mankera.

In 1822 Ram Singh was placed under the orders of Prince Kharak Singh, with whom he remained till 1824, when he was transferred to Raja Suchet Singh's division. He served in Kulu, Kangra and in most of the Maharaja's numerous campaigns, and died in 1836. His son Sahib Singh had been for some time in Government employ at the time of his father's death, at which time he was serving with Raja Suchet Singh on

a salary of Rs. 2,000 per annum. This was raised to Rs. 7,923, including Isapur and some other villages of the original estate. Sahib Singh was present at the second siege of Multan in 1818, and in Kashmir in the following year. He also served under Prince Kharak Singh and Raja Suchet Singh at Mankera, Bannu, Yusufzai, Saiduki and the Derajat. After the Satlaj Campaign his estate was cut down to Rs. 5,231, subject to the service of ten sowars, and also charged with pensions to his father's widows.

In 1847 he was sent in command of one hundred horsemen to the Manjha to assist Lala Mangalsen, brother of Diwan Ratan Chand Dhariwala in the collection of the revenue, and afterwards he proceeded to Hazara under Captain Abbott. He remained faithful to Government during the disturbances of 1848-49, and has been spoken of in the highest terms by many English officers. In 1851 a portion of his jagirs, consisting of Isapur, Bolah, Sagal and Suran, worth Rs. 2,597, exclusive of some subordinate rent-free holdings in the name of other members of his family, was confirmed to him for life. The villages of Isapur, Sagal, and Suran, worth Rs. 1,386, descend to his legitimate male heirs in perpetuity.

Sardar Sahib Singh resided at Isapur in the Amritsar district up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1878.

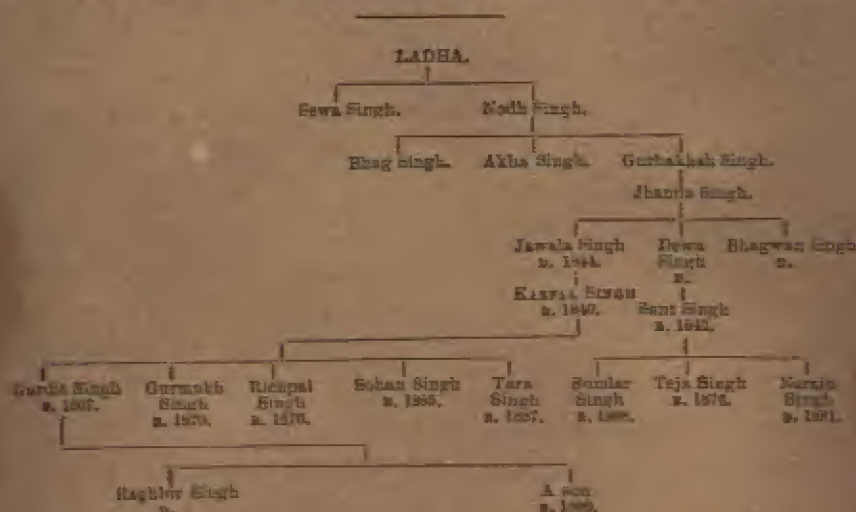
His only son, Akwak Singh, was first employed under the English Government as a Jamadar of Police. In 1857 he was made Rasaldar and sent to Bannu. He behaved very well during the disturbances, and received an extra Bahadari allowance for his gallant conduct.

Sardar Akwak Singh retired, after a service of twenty-four years, in 1874. At the time of his retirement he was Rasaldar of the 5th Panjab Cavalry. He is at present childless, his two children by his first wife having died young. He has since married three wives. He enjoys a cash pension



of Rs. 540 per annum, besides a jagir of Rs. 1,200, subject to the payment of one-third nazarana. He owns nearly sixteen hundred ghumaos of land in the Amritsar and Sialkot districts, besides houses in the former city and in Isapur.

## SARDAR KARPAL SINGH SINDHU, CHICHAWALA.



Ladha was a Lambardar of the village of Chicha, which had been founded by an ancestor of that name, a Sindhu Jat, many generations before. Sewa, son of Ladha, about the year 1720, adopted the Sikh faith. It was a time trying to the zeal of new converts. Banda, the blood-thirsty follower of Guru Govind, had been recently executed at Dehli, and a bitter persecution was raging against the Sikhs, who were put to death wherever they were found. Sewa Singh fled with some companions to the wild region of the Upper Ravi, and it was not for many years afterwards that he was able to return to his native village. He turned a robber, like most of the Sikhs at that time, and fell at length in a foray in the direction of Lahore. His brother Nodh Singh joined the force of Sardar Gujar Singh Bhangi, and managed in the year 1767 to take and hold six villages in the Daska pargana, two named Balkawala, Jalal, Sahibran, Gilwala and Kalarwala. After Gujar Singh obtained possession of Gujrat, Nodh Singh received six other villages in the neighbourhood of that city, but was killed shortly afterwards in a skirmish with



Sultan Mukarab, an officer of Ahmad Shah Durani. His son Akha Singh succeeded to the estate, but was killed in the year 1780 in attempting to recover some cattle which Ghulam Mahomed, the inveterate foe of the Bhangi Misal, had carried off.

Akha Singh left no son, and his brother Bhag Singh, who was a brave soldier, very largely increased the family possessions. He became a Sardar, and held under Gujar Singh a jagir worth Rs. 40,000. After his death, without issue, his nephew Jhanda Singh remained in the service of Sabib Singh, son of Gujar Singh, till, Ranjit Singh having taken possession of Amritsar, and the power of the Bhangi Misal being on the decline, he joined the young Chief and obtained from him a grant of eleven villages in the Amritsar district, though he lost all the old jagirs in Gujrat and Sialkot. Jhanda Singh fought in many of Ranjit Singh's campaigns, including those of Kashmir and Kangra. In 1833 he was killed in a private quarrel with one Jit Singh, commandant, who also died of the wounds he received. Jhanda Singh appears to have been the aggressor in this affair; for on Jit Singh's family complaining to the Maharaja all the jagirs of Jhanda Singh were resumed, with the exception of Chichea. Jawala Singh, his son, was two years afterwards taken into favour and received back a portion of the jagir, subject to the service of ten horsemen. He served for some time on the frontier at Bannu and Kohat.

Jawala Singh had married the daughter of Sardar Atar Singh Sindhanwalia, and this alliance brought great trouble upon him, for all his jagirs were confiscated by Maharaja Sher Singh when he ascended the throne. When the Sindhanwalias came into favour the jagirs were released, but were again resumed by Raja Hira Singh, whose father the Sindhanwalias had assassinated.

Jawala Singh died in 1844. His son Karpal Singh was then only seven years old, and Maharaja Dalip Singh con-

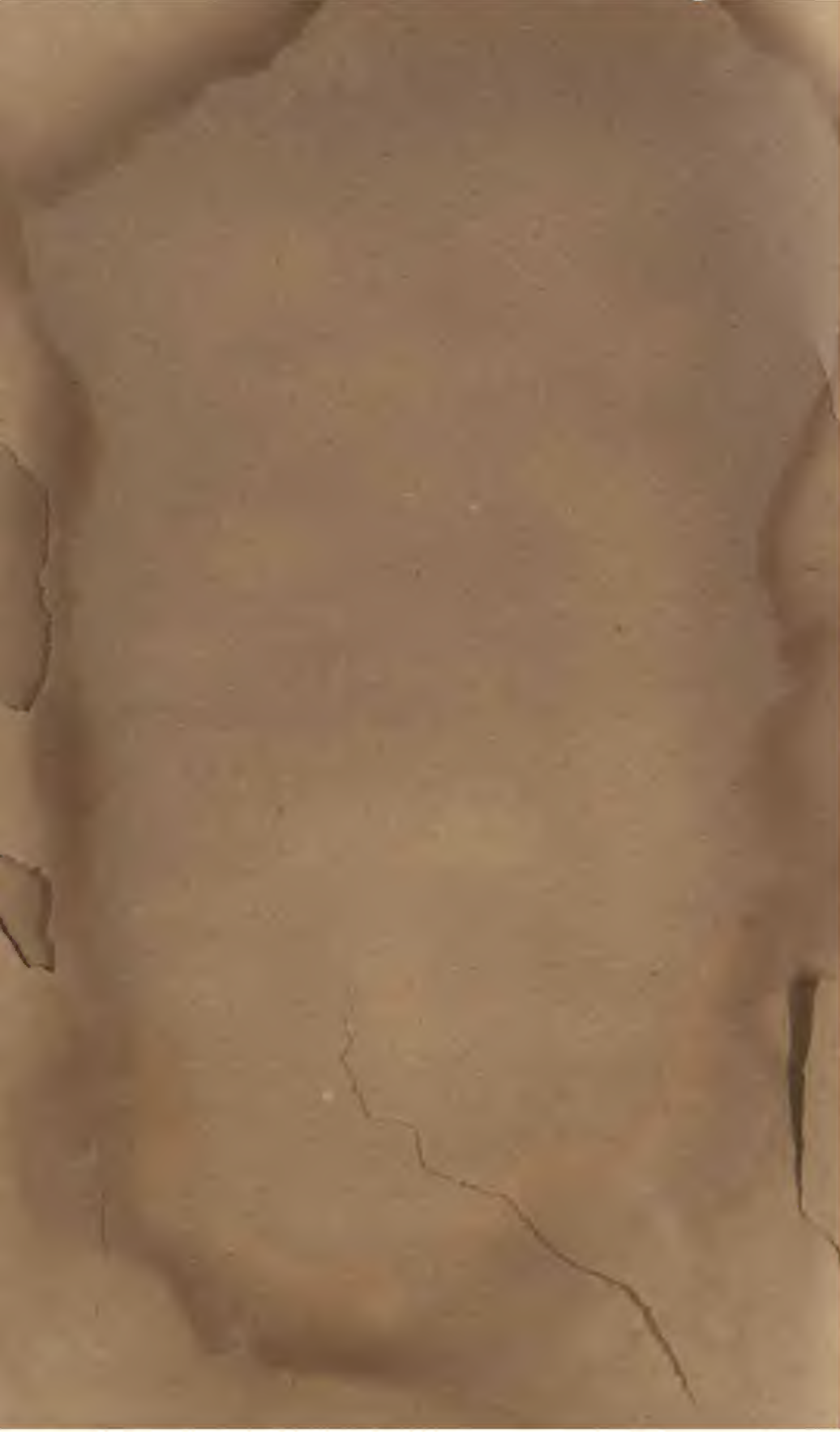
granted to him Hara, worth Rs. 425, a share in Mouza Bura Gil, worth Rs. 137, both in Tahsil Ajnala, and five wells in Chicha, worth Rs. 756 per annum. This jagir is held by Karpal Singh for life, the wells at Chicha being alone granted in perpetuity.

Masammatt Dya Kaur, widow of Sardar Jawala Singh, is in receipt of a cash pension of Rs. 500 per annum.

Three of Karpal Singh's sons are reading in the Chicha village school and are reported to be promising lads.



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